

**MINUTES OF THE
THIRTY-FIRST GENERAL SYNOD**

**BALTIMORE, MARYLAND
JUNE 30 – JULY 5, 2017**

**Lee Foley
Administrator
General Synod**

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**MINUTES
THIRTY-FIRST GENERAL SYNOD**

“MAKE GLAD”

**BALTIMORE, MARYLAND
JUNE 30 – JULY 4, 2017**

CALL TO ORDER

**Friday Afternoon, June 30, 2017
First Plenary Session**

1. GENERAL SYNOD CALL TO ORDER

Moderator Sue Artt (RM) called the first business session of the Thirty-first General Synod to order at 3:39 pm and welcomed delegates, visitors, and guests.

2. WELCOME FROM THE HOST CONFERENCE

Moderator Artt noted the extravagant hospitality of Local Arrangements Committees of each General Synod that worked throughout the biennium preparing for delegates, honored guests, and visitors. Moderator Artt called on Denise Mason-Bullitt to extend a welcome to the body to the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ.

Denise Mason-Bullitt (CAC) welcomed the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ to Baltimore – the geographic heart of the Central Atlantic Conference of the United Church of Christ. Denise Mason-Bullitt indicated that the General Synod’s presence helped fulfill the call of the late Rev. Dr. John Deckenback who once said, “Y’all come! Come and see our city! Come and meet our people!”

Denise Mason-Bullitt indicated that the CAC are the people of Shenandoah, the Catoctin, the Potomac, the Chesapeake, and New Jersey. The Central Atlantic Conference of the United Church of Christ is the home of the gathered for the next five days to worship and remember those loved and lost, to work and debate, eat great food and celebrate, and to hope and imagine what is possible, proclaiming in all that the Still Speaking God is lifted up and lifted high for all the world to see.

3. INTRODUCTION OF GENERAL SYNOD LEADERSHIP

Moderator Artt introduced the Assistant Moderator Norman Williams (ILL)

Moderator Artt also introduced The Honorable Denise Page Hood (MICH), Federal District Judge, serving as the Parliamentarian for the Synod; Corey Larson, Agenda Coordinator; Lee Foley, the Administrator of General Synod, and David Anderson, head of the Committee Process Team.

Moderator Artt indicated that the Agenda Committee consists of the Synod Administrator, the Moderators, the two Parliamentarians, the Chair of the Committee on Disposition, Caroline

Belsom, the Agenda Coordinator, and Mr. David Anderson. Moderator Artt explained the committee process, including the composition and role of the Agenda Committee.

Moderator Artt also introduced Libby Tigner (CA, NV, S) serving as the delegates' Parliamentarian.

4. REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Moderator Artt called on Fred Young (PC), standing in for Krysten Thomas (CAC), Chair of the Credentials Committee.

Fred Young moved the adoption of the Report of the Credentials Committee (Appendix A).

Moderator Artt indicated the report of the Credentials Committee is received and called for a vote.

17-GS-01 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopted the report of the Credentials Committee by consensus.

5. QUORUM DECLARED

Moderator Artt reported that the Registrar of the General Synod, Denise Pittman, reported 737 delegates; 83 associate delegates, 1,931 visitors for a total of 2,751.

Moderator Artt declared a quorum was present and the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ was in compliance with the Constitution of the United Church of Christ and Bylaws' paragraphs 189, 190, 191 and 192 and that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ was officially in session.

6. INTRODUCTION OF MICROPHONE PROCEDURES AND ELECTRONIC VOTING

Moderator Artt explained the use of microphones and introduced the youth stewards. Moderator Artt then introduced Libby Tigner who provided instructions to the delegates on the use of voting devices.

7. ADOPTION OF THE GENERAL SYNOD AGENDA

Moderator Artt indicated that Bylaw 227 indicates that the United Church of Christ Board of Directors (the Board) acts as the General Synod "ad Interim" and serves as the Business Committee and Committee of Reference of the General Synod during its sessions and as such is responsible for the agenda and scheduling of all meetings of the General Synod, and recommending changes therein during sessions.

Moderator Artt called on Dale Bonds, Chair of the Board, who moved the adoption of the Agenda for the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ as included in The Second Report of the Board (Appendix B), and authorization for the Agenda Committee to make any necessary adjustments during sessions.

17-GS-02 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopted the agenda as included in the Report of the Board and authorized the Agenda Committee to make any necessary adjustments.

8. GRANTING VOICE WITHOUT VOTE TO RESOURCE PERSONS

Chair person, Dale Bonds moved that voice without vote be granted to resource persons approved by the Business Committee who will be asked to make reports and speak to certain issues. The Synod Administrator's office prepared a listing of those people as follows:

David Anderson	Coordinator-Committee Process Team
Traci Blackmon Nominator	JWM Ex. Min. Nomination Speech
Don Clark	Presenter-Shaping Our Future Campaign
Ken Daniel	Speakout Coordinator
Christine Davies	Presenter-New Church Start Recognition
Joel Dopico	Presenter-Caribbean Initiative
Lee Foley	Synod Administrator
Richard Hilbrich	Associate General Counsel
Denise Page Hood	Parliamentarian
Steve Jones	Chief Financial Officer
Heather Kimmel	General Counsel
Corey Larson	Agenda Coordinator
Aaron Mair	Keynote Speaker
Glennon Doyle Melton	Keynote Speaker
Movement Makers Honorees	Movement Makers Award
Reps. of Youth@Synod	Youth Perspective Event
Carolyn Roberts	Presenter-John Deckenback Tribute
Raven Rowe	Theological Reflector
Valerie Smith	Associate Synod Administrator
Karen Georgia Thompson	Presenter-Ecumenical Guests
Libby Tigner	Parliamentarian
Jill White	Presenter-John Deckenback Tribute
Damaris Whittaker	Theological Reflector

17-GS-03 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ granted voice without vote by consensus to the above resource persons approved by the Business Committee.

9. REPORT OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST BOARD OF DIRECTORS INCLUDING INTRODUCTION OF SLATE FOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Moderator Artt called on Dale Bonds, Chair of the Board, for the Report of the Board (Appendix C: First Report of the United Church of Christ Board of Directors) and the introduction of the Slate for the Nominating Committee.

Dale Bonds highlighted the work of the Board of Directors as follows:

The Board worked on three vital questions: (1) Purpose: What drives the Church: why does the church do what it does? (2) Mission: What does the Church do to accomplish its purpose; what difference does the church make and what change will happen? And (3) Vision: What does the Church aspire to? The results of that session included a (1) UCC Purpose: To Love God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength, and our neighbor as ourselves. (2) UCC Mission: United in Spirit and inspired by God's grace, we welcome all, love all and seek justice for all. (3) UCC Vision: United in Christ's love, a just world for all.

The Board has actively engaged in soliciting everyone's input as it continued to review the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ. The Governance Committee worked diligently on a process that included conversations with Conference Ministers, a survey of the wider church in which more than 2000 persons participated, and generative discussions within the UCCB itself.

Dale Bonds indicated that once a year the board meetings overlap, with generative discussions with the Council of Conference Ministers. This has proved to be a blessing, not only because it established better communication but it forges closer relationships among the leadership. The Strategic Implementation Task Force was sanctioned and consisted of mostly under-40 clergy to help imagine and formulate plans for the future, based on their initial report "A Vision: The Transformative United Church of Christ in Ten Years."

Evaluations for the General Minister and President and Executive Ministers were conducted and benchmarks established for the next year.

The final report of the Giving Task Force was received by the Board and a resolution outlining the recommendations of the Task Force has been brought forward for consideration of General Synod 31.

A search was conducted for the next Executive Minister of Justice and Witness Ministries.

And finally, Dale Bonds indicated that the Board has become the United Church of Christ Board that the designers of Unified Governance envisioned it to be. In in that regard, Dale Bonds introduced the recommendations to the General Synod Nominating Committee,

At the recommendation of the Special Committee on Election, the Business Committee brought forth five candidates for election to the General Synod Nominating Committee. They are Reginald Brantley, Rachel Ditch, Christopher Gilmore, Roberto Ochoa and Foai Tanuvasa. Their biographies and qualifications have been posted for the past three months, and with their election by the General Synod, the diversity requirements for the Nominating Committee will be met or exceeded.

17-GS-04 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ approved the slate of nominees for election to the General Synod Nominating Class of 2021.

10. THANK YOU

Moderator Artt expressed heartfelt gratitude for Dale Bonds' service as a courageous and capable leader, pointed out the gifts and talents of the outgoing Board Chair, Dale Bonds.

11. REPORT OF THE GENERAL SYNOD NOMINATING

Moderator Artt indicated that the General Synod Nominating Committee's Chair Dan DeLeon (SCC) would be giving the report of the Nominating Committee.

Dan DeLeon indicated that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ's Nominating Committee has selected 12 members of the United Church of Christ for nomination as members at-large and is placing their names for election before the Thirty-first General Synod for election to the United Church of Christ Board of Directors. The First Report of the Nominating Committee (Appendix D), the slate of nominees for election to the United Church of Christ Board, was made public for delegate review on February 21, 2017 and the Second Report of the Nominating Committee (Appendix E), the nominees for Moderator and Assistant Moderator was made public on April 25, 2017.

On behalf of the 26 members of the Nominating Committee, Dan DeLeon formally submitted to the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ the First and Second Report of the Nominating Committee as posted on the United Church of Christ website and urged the election of the nominees by the delegates to the Thirty-first General Synod.

**12. COMMITTEE ON DISPOSITION REPORT/EMPOWERING BUSINESS
COMMITTEE TO MAKE REFERRALS OF NEW BUSINESS FOR ACTION.**

Moderator Artt called on Caroline Belson, Vice-Chair of the Governance Committee and Chair of the Committee on Disposition.

Caroline Belson reported a total of 21 proposed resolutions have been received and the committee recommends designating 7 of them as "Prudential Resolutions," each requiring a majority vote, and 14 as "Resolutions of Witness," each requiring a two-thirds vote. 18 of the resolutions are recommended for referral to committees of the General Synod, none directly to a plenary session, one to implementing or other bodies and two directly to the Board for action. For the record, it is noted that no pronouncements or proposals for action were submitted to this General Synod.

If further resolutions are introduced as new business, the Committee on Disposition will review them and formulate recommendations. On behalf of the Committee on Disposition, Caroline Belson recommended that the Business Committee be delegated the task of assigning final disposition of any new business.

Caroline Belson presented the motion as follows: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopt the Reports of the Committee on Disposition and delegates to the Business Committee the referral of new business submitted during the first plenary General Synod.

Discussion:

Kelli Parrish-Lucas (UCCDM) requested that the disabilities of the delegates be communicated so that they could assure that UCCDM are being adequately represented.

Moderator Artt indicated that the request would be taken under advisement.

17-GS-05 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopted the Report of the Committee on Disposition and delegated any new business to the Business Committee

13. INTRODUCTION OF NEW BUSINESS (BY TITLE ONLY)

Moderator Artt stated that in accordance with the Standing Rules, this is the only time in the Agenda when delegates may introduce New Business and the New Business would be introduced by Title Only.

Moderator Artt indicated that there is no new business to be referred to the Business Committee for recommended action.

Moderator Artt acknowledged the youth.

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Moderator Artt called on the Administrator of General Synod, Lee Foley for announcements.

Lee Foley greeted the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ and made the following announcements.

1. Local arrangements looking for ushers.
2. For correct Injustice Walk information, check your app.
3. Driver's License is available that is lost.
4. Next session is tomorrow at 8:30 am

15. RECESS

Moderator Artt declared the Thirty-first General Synod to be in recess until 8:30 AM. Saturday morning.

Saturday, July 1, 2017

Second Plenary Session

1. CALL TO ORDER

Assistant Moderator Norman Williams called the Second Plenary Session to order at 8:30 am.

2. INTRODUCTION OF HONORED GUESTS

Assistant Moderator Williams welcomed the following former officers, executives of instrumentalities, and former moderators of the United Church of Christ.

Past General Ministers and Presidents Avery Post and John Thomas and the immediate-past General Minister and President Geoffrey Black, were unable to be present. Geoffrey Black was,

at the request of our current General Minister and President John Dorhauer, representing the United Church of Christ in Leipzig, Germany, at a meeting of the World Council of Reformed Churches.

Former General Minister and President Paul Sherry and wife, Mary Sherry.

Past Officers of the United Church of Christ.

Former LCM Executive Minister, Steve Sterner and wife, Judith Sterner.

Former Wider Church Ministries Executive Minister, Olivia Masih White and husband, Terry White.

Former Wider Church Ministries, Executive Minister, Bennie Whiten, Jr. and wife, Sue Spote, Also, from Wider Church Ministries, former Executive Minister, Cally Rogers-Witte and husband, Frank Rogers-Witte.

The former Associate General Minister, Edith Guffey.

The former Executive Minister of Justice and Witness Ministries, Bernice Powell Jackson.

Also, from Justice and Witness Ministries, former Executive Minister, Linda Jaramillo.

Mike Downs, the former President and Chief Executive Officer of the Pension Boards, and wife, Dana Downs.

Former Moderators of the General Synod:

The Moderator of the Fifteenth General Synod, John Kruger and wife, Patricia Kruger.

The Moderator of the Eighteenth General Synod, Charlotte Gosselink and husband, Chuck Gosselink

The Moderator of the Twenty-second General Synod, Denise Page Hood.

The Moderator of the Twenty-sixth General Synod, Merlyn Lawrence.

The Moderator of the Twenty-seventh General Synod, Marvin Morgan and wife, Dr, Mae Morgan.

The Moderator of the Twenty-ninth General Synod, Libby Tigner.

And, the Moderator of the Thirtieth General Synod, Brian Holeman.

Former Instrumentality Executives:

The former Executive of the Office of Communication, Art Cribbs.

The former Executive of the Office of Communication, Bob Chase, and wife, Blythe Chase.

The former Executive of the Office for Church in Society, Yvonne Delk.

The former Executive of the Office for Church in Society, Wally Ryan Kuroiwa and wife, Jayne Ryan Kuroiwa.

The former Executive of the Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society, Mary Susan Gast.

And, the Former Executive of the Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society, Loey Powell.

Assistant Moderator Norman Williams gave thanks for these saints, and with acclamation of the General Synod, declared that the honored guests were granted voice in the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ.

17-GS-06 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ granted voice to the honored guests by consensus.

3. INTRODUCTION OF ECUMENICAL GUESTS

Assistant Moderator Williams called upon Karen Georgia Thompson, Minister for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations, to introduce the Ecumenical Delegates and Partners.

Karen Georgia Thompson introduced the following:

From the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins, General Minister and President, and the Rev. Paul Tche, President for the Council on Christian Unity and Ecumenical Officer;

From the Reformed Church in America, the Rev. Dr. Lynn Japinga, Professor of Religion at Hope College in Holland, MI;

From the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, Bishop Bill Gohl, of the Delaware-Maryland Synod and Dr. Kathryn Johnson, Director of Ecumenical & Inter-Religious Relations in the Office of the Presiding Bishop;

From the United Church of Canada, The Rev. Jordan Cantwell, Moderator, Rev. John Young, Executive Minister, Theological Leadership and Rev. Dr. Larry Doyle, Minister at Faith United Church who currently chairs the planning committee for the 43rd General Council;

From the National Council of Churches, Mr. Jim Winkler, President and General Secretary;

From Christian Churches Together, Rev. Carlos Malave, Executive Director;

From the World Council of Churches, Mr. Stan Noffsinger, Director for the Office of the General Secretariat;

Karen Georgia Thompson also acknowledged Rev. Jacqueline Taylor from the Presbyterian Church

Assistant Moderator Norman Williams gave thanks for the ecumenical partners, and with acclamation of the General Synod, declared that the ecumenical partners were granted voice at the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ.

17-GS-07 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ grants voice to the ecumenical partners by consensus.

4. INTRODUCTION OF OVERSEAS GUESTS

Assistant Moderator Williams called on James Moos, Executive Minister of Wider Church Ministries and Co-Executive of Global Ministries, to introduce and welcome our overseas guests and missionaries.

James Moos indicated that there are nearly 300 partners worldwide and "... we all experience the streams of that river; together our many streams flow into the river, and we are made glad, knowing God inhabits all of those places, loves all, and blesses all. With our partners, Global Ministries receives and shares the good news of Jesus Christ, to work for justice, reconciliation and peace, that all of God's people and creation share in God's abundant love."

From Africa:

The Rev. Lucien Mumboba Kobele, General Secretary of the Disciples of Christ Church of the Congo, from the Republic of the Congo

Rev. Nicta Milton Lubaale Makiika , General Secretary of the Organization of African Instituted Churches, in Kenya;

Mrs. Ebum Abeni James-Dekam General Secretary of the Council of Churches in Sierra Leone (accompanied by her husband, Mr. Ivan Lee Dekam);

From East Asia and the Pacific:

Rev. Tafue Lusama, General Secretary of the Congregational Christian Church of Tuvalu;

From Europe:

Bishop Ilsa Junkermann, Bishop of the Evangelical Church in Central Germany, of the Union of Evangelical Churches;

Ms. Marta Bernardini, representing Mediterranean Hope, and the Waldensian Church in Italy;

From Latin America and the Caribbean:

Mrs. Jenny Neme, Director of JUSTAPAZ , the Christian Center for Justice, Peace and Nonviolent Action, in Colombia;

Rev. Joel Ortega Dopico, President of the Cuban Council of Churches;

Rev. Raúl Suárez Ramos, representing the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Center in Cuba;

From the Middle East:

Ms. Nafkot Mamuye Dessalegn, representing the Evangelical Church in Morocco;

From Southern Asia:

Bishop Probal Kanto Dutta of the Diocese of Durgapur of the Church of North India;

The Rev. Thevasagayam Thevanesan, president of the Church of American Ceylon Mission, based in Jaffna, Sri Lanka;

The Rev. Suryaningsi Mila, Dean of Theology Department of Theological School in Lewa, Synod Gereja Kristen Sumba (Indonesia);

The Rev. Jide Macaulay, representing the Global Interfaith Network for People of All Sexes, Sexual Orientations, Gender Identities and Expressions.

Jim Moos also celebrated the many relationships that Conferences have with partners the world over and welcomed any international guests which conferences or local churches have brought to General Synod.

Jim Moos introduced Bishop Probal Kanto Dutta, of the Diocese of Durgapur of the Church of North India, who offered a word of greeting on behalf of the global partners.

Of the approximately 100 mission co-workers appointed by Global Ministries to serve at the invitation of partners, eleven were present at this Synod:

Rev. Phyllis Byrd, serving with the Organization of African Instituted Churches, in Kenya;
Rev. John and Rev. Karen Campbell-Nelson, serving with Artha Wacana Christian University and the Evangelical Church of West Timor, Indonesia;
Michael Joseph, serving with the Peace Research and Action Center, in Colombia;
Rev. Victor serving with the Diyar Consortium in Palestine;
Rev. Loren McGrail, serving with the YWCA of Palestine;
Ms. Toni Reynolds, who has completed service with Servicio Social de Iglesias Dominicana,

Dominican Republic;

Rev. Nicodemos Sopepa, serving with the Pacific Council of Churches, in Fiji;
Don and Maryjane Westra, having served with the Evangelical and Reformed Churches, Honduras;

Jim Moos welcomed our international partners, celebrated our mission co-workers, and asked the attendees to lift up all of our partners in prayer, and remember that the streams of the church and the world flow together forming the river of God, the water rippling with the activity of God's mission, seeking the gladness of love, service, justice, and peace for the world. Jim Moos moved that these guests be granted voice.

Assistant Moderator Williams thanked Jim Moos and granted voice at this Thirty-first General Synod to all the overseas guests and missionaries.

17-GS-08 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ granted voice to the overseas guests by consensus.

5. NOMINATION AND SPEECH OF THE JUSTICE AND WITNESS MINISTER CANDIDATE.

Assistant Moderator Williams indicated that one of the highlights of this Thirty-first General Synod would be the election of the Executive Minister for Justice and Witness Ministries.

Assistant Moderator Williams welcomed Starsky D. Wilson, President and CEO of the Deaconess Foundation and Senior Pastor of Saint John's Church (Beloved Disciples).

Starsky Wilson introduced and nominated Traci Blackmon as Minister of the Justice and Witness Ministry.

Traci Blackmon accepted the nomination and indicated her gratefulness.

Assistant Moderator Williams indicated that Traci Blackmon's nomination was now before the Thirty-first General Synod and that the election would be held on Sunday evening.

6. MOVEMENT MAKERS AWARD

Assistant Moderator Williams indicated that General Synod has the privilege of witnessing the awarding of Justice and Witness Ministries' Inaugural Movement Makers Award. Assistant Moderator Williams invited Traci Blackmon to introduce the first recipients of this major social justice award.

Traci Blackmon announced that the first recipient of the award was the Young People of Standing Rock. The Young People of Standing Rock were introduced to General Synod and they spoke words of appreciation and gratitude for the award.

Assistant Moderator Williams thanked Traci Blackmon and also thanked the International Indigenous Youth Council for their inspiring and faithful work.

Assistant Moderator Williams invited Moderator Artt to introduce Glennon Doyle Melton.

7. GLENNON DOYLE MELTON CONVERSATION

Moderator Artt welcomed Glennon Doyle Melton, the #1 New York Times bestselling author of Love Warrior and Carry On, Warrior. Glennon Doyle Melton is a speaker, activist and creator.

Glennon Doyle Melton and Moderator Artt engaged in conversation on stage. Moderator Artt asked questions and discussed with Glennon Doyle Melton how to change the world by sharing your stories, sharing the truth and being authentic.

8. REPORT OF THE GENERAL MINISTER AND PRESIDENT

Assistant Moderator Williams introduced the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ, John Dorhauer.

John Dorhauer's presentation included admiration, thanksgiving and introduction of a purpose, mission and vision statement.

Assistant Moderator Williams thanked John Dorhauer.

9. THEOLOGICAL FORMATION SUMMIT PRESENTATION.

Assistant Moderator Williams introduced Alice Hunt, President of the Chicago Theological Seminary, and member of the United Church of Christ Board.

Alice Hunt introduced the Theological Formation Summit scheduled for April 9 and 10, 2018, to engage intentionally and deeply about the very basis of our life as a church – our theological formation.

Assistant Moderator Williams thanked Alice Hunt for the presentation and invitation to attend the Summit, as well as for the theological work being done.

10. NEW CHURCH START CELEBRATION

Assistant Moderator Williams called on Chris Davies who introduced a short video on New Church starts.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Assistant Moderator Williams called on Lee Foley to make announcements.

Lee Foley greeted the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ and made the following announcements:

1. First Speakout! Session would be on Saturday and sign-up would be available with Ken Daniel at Microphone 5.
2. Friday's Worship Collection was \$12,248.21
3. Blue Water Baltimore project was cancelled due to the weather.
4. Please don't cut through back stage to use restrooms.
5. Workshops will be in Session this afternoon.
6. Gala event to be held this Evening.

12. TRIBUTE TO JOHN DECKENBACK

Assistant Moderator Williams introduced the family of Rev. Dr. John Deckenback and Jill White, (CAC) and Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee.

Jill White shared highlights and accomplishments of John Deckenback's life.

13. RECESS

Assistant Moderator Williams declared General Synod to be in recess until Sunday afternoon.

Sunday Evening, July 2, 2017

Third Plenary Session

1. CALL TO ORDER AND SPONSOR RECOGNITION

Moderator Artt called the Third Plenary of the Thirty-first General Synod to order at 7:00 pm.

Moderator Artt indicated it was time to hear from one of the major partners and major financial sponsors, the Church Building and Loan Fund and thanked them for their generous support of General Synod. A short video about Church Building and Loan Fund was then shown.

2. SPEAKOUT!

Moderator Artt called for those signed up for Speakout to line up at the microphone.

Bob Interbyte (CONN) – Connecticut Equal Rights for Adoptees

Linda Jaramilla (CCP) – Sanctuary walk will meet at Pratt Street entrance of convention center to march to the ICE office.

Sarah Birmingham Drummond (NH) – Andover Newton College relocation to New Haven Connecticut.

Chuck Morgan (MASS) – Awakenings Study Conference April 26 and 29 in Holyoke.

David Knapp (CONN) – UCC Scouting Working Group

Wanda Scott (PNW) – Pacific School of Religion
Debra Blood (ME) – Dean of Pride Camp/Queer Camp at Gardner Lodge in Maine.

Moderator Artt announced that the next Speakout! will be at the start of the next business meeting and the sign-up would immediately follow Plenary.

4. THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

Moderator Artt indicated that each plenary would begin and end with a time of theological reflection. The first of the two theological reflectors Damaris D. Whittaker, was introduced.

Damaris Whittaker has served as Minister at Center Church – First Church of Christ in Hartford, CT, since 2012. Previously, Damaris served as the Director of Marketing and Development at the Christian Activities Council of Hartford and Co-Pastor at Iglesia Cristiana Nueva Esperanza UCC, also in Hartford. An active speaker and advocate on issues of domestic violence, women’s leadership and health care, Damaris Whittaker has worked in grassroots organizations that provide pastoral and substance abuse counseling, and holds a Doctor of Ministry degree from New York Theological Seminary.

Damaris Whittaker – The New Birth and new life of combined conferences is to be a movement that is being the spirit of God. May the flowing of the rain give us courage to move from being an institution to a movement of peace.

4. ON ENHANCED SUPPORT OF AMERICAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION FOUNDED CHURCHES THAT PARTICIPATED IN THE MERGER FORMING THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST.

Moderator Artt introduced the Committee reporting process.

Moderator Artt indicated that, as a rule, Committees are allocated approximately 15 minutes in which to report to the General Synod. Moderator Artt reminded delegates of the microphone layout and function.

Moderator Artt thanked the Committee Process Team that included facilitators Roy Mosley (CA NV, N.), Dennis Frische-Mouri (IK), and Susan Townsley (CONN), and was staffed by David Anderson (PNW).

Moderator Artt called on Richard Edens (SOC) to present the recommended actions from Committee #1.

Richard Edens introduced the resolution on enhanced support of American Missionary Association Founded Churches that participated in the merger forming the United Church of Christ and noted that minor changes had been made to the original resolution.

Richard Edens noted the changes and, on behalf of Committee #1, moved that the Resolution entitled On Enhanced Support of the American Mission Churches that Participated in the Merger forming the United Church of Christ be passed by the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ and then spoke to the resolution.

There was No Discussion

17-GS-09 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopted the resolution, as amended by committee, On Enhanced Support of American Missionary Association Founded Churches that Participated in the Merger forming the United Church of Christ.

**ON ENHANCED SUPPORT OF AMERICAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION FOUNDED
CHURCHES THAT PARTICIPATED IN THE MERGER FORMING THE UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Text of the Motion:

Whereas, the recent murder of the Charleston Nine by Dillon Roof, and the extrajudicial killings of persons of color at the hands of police, such as Gregory Gunn, Akiel Denkins, Walter Scott, and Keith Scott, demonstrate that the words W.E.B. Dubois spoke in an earlier time still ring true. A major problem in American life is the issue of race. While we have, by order of law, come to physically share many public and private spaces, not enough people have come to the point of sharing hearts, minds, and spirits around a uniting vision of freedom, justice, and equality.

Whereas, if the color line in America is to be fully broken, there must be a change in understanding and attitude. That will be a work of capacity building that moves individuals where they live; in areas and communities where these historic American Missionary Association (AMA) founded African American churches are located, such as Montgomery, Alabama and Charlotte, NC. If these churches are given more resources and attention aimed at vitality and excellence, they can be the needed impact to move people and communities along a spectrum of empathy that begins with cognition and develops into compassion and prophetic social action; and

Whereas, the United Church of Christ, as a denomination has numerous entities and agencies that are capable of providing focused and enhanced support of these small - to medium - sized congregations with low to no cost options within a comprehensive denominational initiative. Among these are: UCC Building and Loan, UCC Insurance Board, Pension Boards of the United Church of Christ, Local Church Ministries, and Justice and Witness Ministries; and

Whereas, once strengthened by this enhanced support, these churches are then empowered to begin or increase giving to Our Churches Wider Mission through financial contribution and more active participation, which would be a measurable and quantifiable outcome.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ commits itself to bringing the resources of the various agencies and expressions of our church to an enhanced and focused program of supporting the life and mission of the churches and institutions that were founded as a result of the anti-racism work of the American Missionary Association, and the Afro Christian Churches who are currently affiliated with the United Church of Christ.

Be it further resolved that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages all settings of the United Church of Christ to seek ways to understand the needs of, to provide aid and assistance to, and to work in partnership with these churches and institutions by framing local initiatives that advance the purposes for which they were founded;

Be it further resolved that the national setting of the United Church of Christ provide, with appropriate representation and input from each setting, both the human and capital resources necessary to coordinate, prioritize and promote this initiative;

Be it finally resolved that all members and settings of the United Church of Christ be encouraged to continue our historic anti-racism work by joining and/or partnering with Ministers for Racial, Social, and Economic Justice as they speak out against and seek to remedy racially motivated hatred, violence and actions, and systemic injustices such as gerrymandering, voter disenfranchisement, police brutality, and regressive public policies when and where they occur.

Funding

Funding for the implementation of the resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

Implementation

The Collegium of Officers, in consultation with appropriate ministries or other entities within the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.

6. ON BECOMING AN IMMIGRANT WELCOMING CHURCH.

Moderator Artt invited Cheryl Lindsay (OHIO) to the podium to present the Resolution On Becoming an Immigrant Welcoming Church.

Cheryl Lindsay introduced the resolution, noted the changes and made a motion on behalf of Committee #7 that the resolution, as amended, On Becoming An Immigrant Welcoming Church be adopted by the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ. Cheryl Lindsay also spoke to the resolution.

Discussion:

Beth Donaldson (MINN) Spoke in favor of the motion.

Bryn Smallwood-Garcia (CONN) Spoke in favor.

Paul Lance (MICH) Spoke in favor.

Sue Joiner (SW) Spoke in favor.

Kerri Parker (WIS) Spoke in favor.

Tara Wilkins (CCP) Spoke in favor.

Felix Villanueva (SC NV) Spoke in favor.

Marc Stewart (MONT, NO,WY) Spoke in favor.

17-GS-10 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopted the resolution as amended On Becoming an Immigrant Welcoming Church.

ON BECOMING AN IMMIGRANT WELCOMING CHURCH
A Resolution of Witness

TEXT OF THE MOTION

Whereas the International Association for Refugees has stated, "The world is in the midst of a long-term refugee crisis;" and

Whereas thousands of refugees and migrants come from throughout the world to the United States seeking safety, security, freedom, and opportunity; and

Whereas our immigrant brothers and sisters continue to suffer as they fear raids, deportation, and seeing their families torn apart; and

Whereas migrants bring us as offerings their stories and experiences, dreams and hopes, energy and skills; and

Whereas our new neighbors experience difficulties adjusting to life in a new country; difficulties such as language barriers, culture shock, a sense of loss and isolation; and

Whereas the welcome and support immigrants receive helps in the building of safe communities and future prosperity; and

Whereas the United Church of Christ (UCC) declares "No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcomed here;"

Whereas the twenty-ninth General Synod passed a compassionate immigration resolution that included encouraging "congregations to further engage in education work on immigration from a faith perspective, participating in border delegations and working toward making your congregation an Immigrant Welcoming Congregation;"

Therefore be it resolved, that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ in Baltimore, Maryland in 2017 declares itself an Immigrant Welcoming Denomination;

Be it further resolved, that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages the development of U.S. policy dedicated to facilitating the respectful welcome and inclusion of all immigrants;

Be it further resolved, that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages the National Setting, Conferences and Associations to call on their members to become active Immigrant Welcoming Congregations and proclaim themselves to be so;

Be it finally resolved, that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ asks the National Setting to provide resources such as, "Becoming an Immigrant Welcoming Congregation - The Journey is Made by Walking," to assist congregations in this process.

Funding:

The funding for the implementation of the Resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

Implementation:

The Collegium of Officers, in consultation with appropriate ministries of other entities within the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.

7. A CALL FOR THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST TO ADVOCATE FOR THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN LIVING UNDER ISRAELI MILITARY OCCUPATION.

Moderator Artt indicated that one of the highlights of this Synod is a renewed emphasis on the youth program and the ways in which our young people have been more intentionally engaged with the work of the General Synod. In that regard, the General Synod Program and Planning Committee made the decision to allow young people to take a few moments to present a “youth perspective” on the issues as a part of the deliberations. Without objection, Moderator Artt respectfully requested that the General Synod suspend the standing rules to allow the body to hear a three-minute presentation from the Youth as Synod as they prepare to debate and take action upon the current motion.

17-GS-11 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to set aside the standing rule to allow the youth to speak to the resolution.

Moderator Artt invited Leslie Schenk (WISC) to the podium to present the Resolution: A call for the United Church of Christ to Advocate for the Rights of Children Living under Israeli Military Occupation.

Leslie Schenk spoke on the Resolution, thanked the youth who also participated, indicated that three amendments were made and made a Motion on behalf of Committee 2, that the Thirty-first General Synod approve A Call for the United Church of Christ to Advocate for the Rights of Children Living under Israeli Military Occupation as amended by Committee.

Discussion:

Alex Cumbe (CAC) Spoke in Favor.

Ben Mercie (CAC) Spoke in Favor.

Lucy Adkins (CAC) Spoke in Favor.

Catherine Alder (CCP) Spoke in Favor.

Marisa Brown Ludwig (MASS) Spoke in Favor.

Kim Whistler Vasko (ILL) Spoke in Favor.

Dave Yoshida (CONN) Spoke in Favor.

Lorrin Shepard (FLA) Spoke in Favor.

Amelia Nugent (MASS) Spoke to the fact the information is dated

Allie Perry (CONN) Spoke in favor.

17-GS-12 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to adopt the resolution on a Call for the United Church of Christ to Advocate for the Rights of Children Living Under Israeli Military Occupation.

**A CALL FOR THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST TO ADVOCATE FOR
THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN LIVING UNDER ISRAELI MILITARY OCCUPATION
A Resolution of Witness**

Text of the Motion:

Whereas General Synods of the United Church of Christ have repeatedly called for a just settlement of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, for an end to prolonged Israeli military occupation of the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza, for the upholding of principles of non-violence, and for the protection of human rights; and

Whereas the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which the State of Israel has ratified, calls on states to “Treat every child deprived of liberty with humanity and respect for the inherent dignity of the human person, and in a manner which takes into account the needs of persons of his or her age,” to use arrest and imprisonment of children “only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time,” to give detained children “prompt access to legal and other appropriate assistance, as well as the right to challenge the legality of the deprivation of his or her liberty” and “the right to maintain contact with his or her family through correspondence and visits,” and in no case to subject children to “torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment,”; and

Whereas UNICEF in 2013 determined that the “Ill-treatment of Palestinian children in the Israeli military detention system appears to be widespread, systematic and institutionalized” and that this ill-treatment of children includes the use of blindfolds, hand-ties, strip searches, physical violence, verbal abuse and intimidation, denial of access to lawyers and parents prior to and during interrogation, and failure to inform children of their legal rights, such as their right to remain silent; and

Whereas subsequent update reports to UNICEF’s 2013 report have found that the situation has changed little for Palestinian children arrested by Israeli forces in the occupied West Bank; and

Whereas the United States Department of State in its annual country reports on human rights practices has, since 2007 in each annual country report on Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, included data and information on ill-treatment and torture of Palestinian children in Israeli military detention, denial of fair trial rights in Israeli military courts, and other grave violations against children committed by Israeli forces and settlers; and

Whereas Defense for Children International – Palestine and other international, Palestinian, and Israeli human rights organizations regularly publish reports confirming Israel’s widespread and systematic ill-treatment of Palestinian children arrested in the occupied West Bank, ill-treatment which includes heavily armed Israeli soldiers invading children’s homes and arresting them in the middle of the night; failure to notify parents of the reason for arrest or the location of detention; denial of access to lawyers during interrogation; failure to inform children of their

rights; the use of position abuse, threats, and isolation by interrogators to coerce confessions; the use of solitary confinement for interrogation purposes; acceptance of confessions obtained by coercion or torture as legal courtroom evidence, even those confessions written in Hebrew and not understood by children coerced into signing them; and the routine transfer of Palestinian children out of the occupied Palestinian territories to prisons inside Israel in violation of international law; and

Whereas Israeli forces have held an average of 201 Palestinian children in custody each month since 2011, and this number spiked dramatically in late 2015 so that by the end of February 2016 the total had increased to 440, the highest number at any given point since the Israel Prison Service began releasing data in 2008; and

Whereas the U.S. Foreign Assistance Act specifies that no military assistance be given to any country that “engages in a consistent pattern of gross violation of internationally recognized human rights” and on at least eleven previous occasions the U.S. has withheld assistance from countries based on their human rights violations;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ:

Calls on the State of Israel to guarantee basic due process rights and exercise an absolute prohibition against torture and ill-treatment of detained children (defined as persons under 18 years of age) ensuring that, from the moment of arrest, all operations and procedures are carried out in accordance with international juvenile justice standards, specifically the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and

Requests the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ to communicate this call to the Prime Minister of Israel and the Israeli Ambassador to the United States, noting that among the practices in Israel’s military detention system that require change are the use of nighttime arrests in the child’s home, physical and verbal abuse, blindfolds and restraints, strip searches, solitary confinement, coerced confessions and confessions written in Hebrew, as well as the separation of detained children from their parents and legal counselors (including the transfer of Palestinian children to prisons within the State of Israel that their parents are not permitted to visit);

Calls on the government of the United States to adhere to its own established law – in this case, the U.S. Foreign Assistance Act – by withholding military assistance from the State of Israel due to its practices of arrest and detention of Palestinian children, requiring Israel to guarantee basic due process rights and exercise an absolute prohibition against torture and ill-treatment of detained children, ensuring that, from the moment of arrest, all operations and procedures are carried out in accordance with international juvenile justice standards, specifically the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and REQUESTS the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ to communicate this call to the United States Senate, as well as the President, the Vice President, and the Secretary of State of the United States;

Calls on the United States Senate to join with 194 other nations in ratifying the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child so as to bring stronger international pressure to bear on

Israel to comply with the Convention's provisions, in particular Articles 37 and 40 of the Convention governing the treatment of children held in detention and REQUESTS the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ to communicate this call to the United States Senate, as well as the President, Vice President, and Secretary of State of the United States;

Expresses gratitude to Global Ministries of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) for its advocacy on behalf of children in Palestine and the State of Israel;

Encourages continued partnership with local, national and global ecumenical and interfaith partners, as well as with Palestinian and Israeli organizations that are advocating for the rights of children and providing educational, social, and psychological support for children and their families adversely affected by the occupation; and

Encourages respectful dialogue among people of all faiths about this issue that has impacted generations.

Calls on all settings of the United Church of Christ to learn about the plight of children in Palestine and the State of Israel, as well as to support implementation of the resolution from Thirtieth General Synod entitled "A Call for the United Church of Christ to Take Actions Toward a Just Peace in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict," using as an implementation guide the document "Promoting a Just Peace in Palestine-Israel: A Guide for United Church of Christ Faith Leaders," produced by the United Church of Christ Palestine Israel Network.

Funding and Implementation:

The funding for the implementation of this Resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

The Collegium of Officers, in consultation with appropriate ministries or other entities within the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.

8. BUDGET PRESENTATION AND VOTE

Moderator Artt introduced Robert Freiberg, Chair of the Finance and Budget Committee of the Board, and Stephen Jones, Chief Financial Officer for the United Church of Christ who presented a historical financial snapshot and projections. (Appendix F)

Questions from the floor:

Meredith Jackson (MOMS) Where are the numbers for the budget.

Answer: The Budget is voted on by the Board; the General Synod votes on the allocation of the money for the budgets.

Moderator Artt called on Robert Freiberg who moved that the General Synod adopt a National Basic Allocation base of \$4.95 million and \$4.63 million for the budget years 2018 and 2019.

17-GS-13 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod the United Church of Christ adopted the National Basic Support Allocation base of \$4.95 million and \$4.63 million respectively for the budget years 2018 and 2019.

Robert Freiberg then moved, on behalf of the Board, that the General Synod delegate the determination of the percentage allocation for Our Churches Wider Mission National Basic Support for the 2018-2019 biennium to the United Church of Christ Board.

Discussion:

Darek McCullers (MRSEJ) Question. Are the core grants in the budget?

Sheresa Simpson Rice (OHIO) Unbelievable to ask a vote without the figures.

17-GS-14 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ delegates the determination of the percentage allocation for Our Church Wider Mission National Basic Support for the 2018 and 2019 biennium to the United Church of Christ Board.

9. MUSIC/STRETCH BREAK

10. POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Cassandra Granadas (NY) Please slow down and let us read the screens before voting.

11. ELECTION OF JUSTICE AND WITNESS MINISTRY OFFICER AND RECOGNITION OF COLLEGIUM

Moderator Artt indicated that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ had received the nomination of Rev. Traci Blackmon as Executive Minister of Justice and Witness Ministries of the United Church of Christ.

The motion was made and seconded on March 9, 2017, that the United Church of Christ Board of Directors, sitting as the Justice and Witness Ministries Board of Directors, re-nominate for election by the Thirtieth-first General Synod the selection of its Search Committee, the Rev.

Traci Blackmon of the Missouri Mid-South Conference for a four-year term as Executive Minister of Justice and Witness Ministries of the United Church of Christ, and submitted its nomination for consideration by delegates to the Thirty-first General Synod, meeting June 30-July 4, 2017, in Baltimore, Maryland.

Discussion:

There was no discussion.

17-GS-15 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ elected Traci Blackmon as Executive Minister of Justice and Witness Ministries of the United Church of Christ.

Moderator Artt called Traci Blackmon, along with General Minister and President John Dorhauer and Jim Moos, Wider Church Executive Minister to the podium and allowed the

Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ time to acknowledge the Collegium of Officers.

4. CONSTITUION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT (UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA)

Moderator Artt indicated that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ would be considering a number of proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ. Geoff Brace, Chair of the Governance Committee of the Board, was called to the stage to present the first of those amendments, the one related to full communion with the United Church of Canada.

Geoff Brace introduced and spoke to the motion. Geoff Brace then moved the adoption of the proposed Amendments to the United Church of Christ Constitution and Bylaws relating to the full communion agreement with the United Church of Canada. Geoff Brace indicated the changes are found in the document entitled UC Canada Proposed Amendments, which was provided pursuant to Article XIII of the United Church of Christ Constitution via the General Synod Website.

Discussion.

There was no Discussion

17-GS-16 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopted the proposed Amendments to the United Church of Christ Constitution and Bylaws relating to the full communion agreement with the United Church of Canada.

CONSTITUION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT (UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA)

(See document entitled UC Canada Proposed Amendments on UCC Website)

13. RESOLUTION DECLARING THE WORK OF THE PATTERN OF GIVING IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST COMPLETE AND ON PROPOSING A NEW FRAMEWORK FOR COVENANTAL GIVING AND IMPLEMENTING FUNDRAISING BEST PRACTICES

Moderator Artt called on Persephone Hall (CAL) to make a motion on the Resolution Declaring the Work of the Pattern of Giving in the United Church of Christ Complete and on Proposing a New Framework for Covenant Giving and Implementing Fundraising Best Practices.

Persephone Hall read the report of the committee, indicated the changes that were made in the resolution and then moved on behalf of committee 5 for the adoption of the motion. Persephone Hall also took time to speak to the motion.

Discussion:

Derek McCuller (MRSEJ) Asked clarification question to address the impact that the change could have on conferences that have less of a funding base. Committee indicated it is providing a more fluid way for the funds to flow.

Hal Chorpenning (RM) Voting in favor, but opposed talk about God-centered fund raising, not donor-centered funding.

17-GS-17 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted in favor of the Resolution Declaring the Work of the Pattern of Giving in the United Church of Christ Complete, and on Proposing a New Framework for Covenantal Giving and Implementing Fundraising Best Practices.

RESOLUTION DECLARING THE WORK OF THE PATTERN OF GIVING
IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST COMPLETE
AND ON PROPOSING A NEW FRAMEWORK FOR COVENANTAL GIVING
AND IMPLEMENTING FUNDRAISING BEST PRACTICES
A Prudential Resolution

Text of the Motion:

Whereas the Pattern of Giving no longer serves the needs of the United Church of Christ, makes no provision for use of technologies that are commonly available today, and in some instances, prevents the implementation of philanthropic best practices that have developed over the last 30 years, and

Whereas a donor-centered approach to fundraising is more in keeping with the best practices of philanthropy today, and the institutionally-centered approach on which our current system relies is a barrier to increasing generosity and to developing new and thriving ministries across the United Church of Christ, and

Whereas the shared ministry among all settings of the United Church of Christ is built on covenantal relationships and must provide for and encourage cooperation, collaboration, and flexibility among all covenant partners in the responsible practice of fundraising and philanthropy, and

Whereas the Eighth General Synod affirmed giving practices that were shared with the church in 1971 in the publication of the Pattern of Giving in the United Church of Christ, and

Whereas the Fourteenth General Synod adopted changes in the earlier work of General Synods, published in the new Pattern of Giving, United Church of Christ 1984 Edition, and

Whereas understandings and patterns of giving have continued to evolve;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ gives thanks to past General Synods for their work that resulted in the publication of the editions of the Pattern of Giving, United Church of Christ, celebrates the effective witness and guidance contained in these documents, and declares the Pattern of Giving no longer in effect.

Be it further resolved that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages all ministry settings of the United Church of Christ to establish coordinated and

comprehensive development programs using best practices that: are sensitive to the needs of all settings of the church; are responsive to changing patterns and practices of generosity across the church and within the culture in which the church lives; are consistent with norms, expectations, and policies of a donor-centered approach to fundraising and philanthropy; and empower congregations and individual donors to donate directly to the mission priorities that are most compelling to them.

Be it further resolved that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ directs the national setting to provide resources to coordinate this effort and build capacity for raising funds in all settings of the church, in covenant, collaboration, and partnership with Conferences and congregations.

Be it further resolved that Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages that Our Church’s Wider Mission—Basic Support continue to be directed from congregations to Conferences.

Be it further resolved that Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ invites Conferences to commit to an OCWM sharing formula no less than the average rate of giving for the previous three years, on a rolling basis.

Be it further resolved that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ invites the Conferences to reevaluate the sharing formula within five years, in conversation with the national setting.

Be it further resolved that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages that the four Special Mission Offerings continue to support the mission of the church, and requests that a cost-benefit analysis be completed for each offering to enable a decision regarding their future implementation.

Be it finally resolved that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ requests that the national setting conduct a marketing analysis of the names “Our Church’s Wider Mission,” “Our Church’s Wider Mission – Basic Support,” and “Our Church’s Wider Mission – Special Support,” in light of the multiple understanding and various uses of these across the church.

Funding

The funding for the implementation of the Resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

Implementation

The Collegium of Officers, in consultation with appropriate ministries or other entities within the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.

12. THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

Damaris Whittaker reflected on the work that took place.

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Moderator Artt called on Lee Foley for the announcements.

Lee Foley greeted the General Synod and made the following announcements:

1. Communion Sets are available for sale.
2. Speakout! sign-up takes place immediately following plenary.
3. Everyone is invited to a spirited JAM session led by the Youth.
4. Please don't walk behind the stage and don't go up on the stage.

14. RECESS

Moderator Sue Artt thanked Lee Foley for the announcements and declared the Third Plenary of the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ to be in recess at 9:25 p.m. The next plenary session will be at 8:00 a.m. on Monday morning.

Monday Morning, July 3, 2017

Fourth Plenary Session

1. CALL TO ORDER AND SPONSOR RECOGNITION

Assistant Moderator Williams called the Fourth Plenary Session to order at 8:00 a.m.

Assistant Moderator Williams made an announcement indicating there would be Immigration Rally at 1:30 p.m, gathering in front of the convention center and proceeding to the local ICE office.

Assistant Moderator Williams also reminded General Synod to refresh or update their Synod app to make sure they were receiving the latest information available.

Assistant Moderator Williams indicated it was time for a word from Chicago Theological Seminary, another one of the major Synod sponsors, and thanked them for their support and then called on the delegates for Speakout!.

2. SPEAKOUT!

Assistant Moderator Williams recognized the following SpeakOut! Participants:

Joanne Marchetto (PNE) – Roasted their conference minister

Alice Folz (Columbia UCC Partnership) – Peace Accord with Nevada/Columbia partnership

Linda Mesler (MASS) – Honoring Jim Antal's love of the three great loves and recognizing his service to environmental justice.

David Yoshida (CONN) – Issue of how we will support our seminaries

Bret Dele (CAC) – Chesapeake Bay Water protection

Gale Kinney (NH) – Justice and Witness Ministries Booth conversation about building an economic justice movement in the UCC

Dorian Ortega (CHM) – Uplift the UCC for its support of releasing Porto Rico prisoners.

Moderator Williams thanked all speakers and indicated that the next Speakout! would be at the next plenary and to sign up for the next Speakout! please see Ken Daniels.

3. POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Frank Boldin (UCCB) – Spoke in response to the exchange in an earlier plenary that it was necessary to reiterate the commitment of the leadership and the Board to be transparent in all its work. General Synod was encouraged to seek out answers to any questions regarding the work, the budgets, and expenditures of the Board, as all of that information is available.

4. THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

Assistant Moderator Williams introduced and called on Raven Rowe for a Theological reflection. Raven Rowe is a chaplain with St. Luke’s Hospital/Unity Point in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Raven Rowe’s reflection was on the words “Come Holy Spirit, Come”.

5. ELECTIONS-UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST BOARD OF DIRECTORS (CLASS OF 2023) AND GENERAL SYNOD MODERATOR AND ASSISTANT MODERATOR (THIRTY-SECOND GENERAL SYNOD ELECTION OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Moderator Artt indicated that the malfunction witnessed yesterday was not a fault of the voting device, but of the Power Point Presentation.

Moderator Artt also indicated that in response to the question from Friday, during the opening plenary about the disability diversity, it was important to mention that the nominating committee is charged with seeing to the diversity of all the slates. However, the nominating committee does not disclose any private information obtained. They do assure that the composition is consistent with the guidelines established by the By-Laws and Constitution of the United Church of Christ.

Moderator Artt indicated that the next order of business was the elections for various offices of the Church.

First would be the election of twelve members to the United Church of Christ Board of Directors, one-third of the At-large membership. The names and biographies of the nominees, selected by the General Synod Nominating Committee, have been posted for delegate review since February 2017.

17-GS-18 VOTED The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to elect the slate of candidates for the United Church of Christ Board of Directors.

Moderator Artt then indicated the nominees for election to the General Synod Nominating Committee would be considered. Five members will be elected to the Nominating Committee. They were nominated by the Board, acting as the Synod Business Committee, on the advice of its Special Committee on Selection. The names and biographies of the five members of the United Church of Christ have been posted since March 2017.

17-GS-19 VOTED The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to elect the slate of candidates for the Nominating Committee.

Moderator Artt indicated the next order of business was the election of the next Moderator of the Thirty-second General Synod. It was the stated intent of the writers of the new governance structure that there would be a graduation of leadership in this position, that the Assistant Moderator from one biennium would be elected as Moderator for the next biennium. Accordingly, the General Synod Nominating Committee has selected Norman Williams for election as Moderator of the Thirty-second General Synod.

17-GS-20 VOTED The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to elect Norman Williams as Moderator of the Thirty-second General Synod.

Moderator Artt announced the nominee for Assistant Moderator of the Thirty-second General Synod is Penny Lowes (MICH).

17-GS-21 VOTED The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to elect Penny Lowes as the Assistant Moderator of the Thirty-second General Synod.

6. CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS PROPOSED AMENDMENT ON ORDAINED MINISTRY AND ECCLESIASTICAL OVERSIGHT

Moderator Elect Norman Williams indicated that the next piece of business would be the consideration of amendments related to Ordained Ministry and Ecclesiastical oversight. Geoff Brace, Chair of the Governance Committee of the Board was called to the stage to present the motion.

Geoff Brace reviewed the background and history of the Motion and moved the adoption of the proposed Amendments to the United Church of Christ Constitution and Bylaws related primarily to Ordained Ministry and Ecclesiastical Oversight. The changes mentioned were found predominantly in lines 76-325 of the document entitled “Constitution: Proposed 2017 Amendments” and predominately in lines 17-425 of the document entitled “Bylaws: Proposed 2017 Amendments”, both of which were provided pursuant to Article XIII of the United Church of Christ Constitution via the General Synod website.

Moderator Elect Williams indicated the motion was before the house and open for discussion.

Discussion:

Paul Lance (MICH) Spoke against the Motion.

There was no further discussion.

17-GS-22 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to adopt the proposed Amendments to the United Church of Christ Constitution and Bylaws related primarily to Ordained Ministry and Ecclesiastical Oversight.

7. **RESOLUTION OF WITNESS IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING AID IN DYING.**

Moderator Williams called on Elliott Munn (CT) to speak on behalf of Committee 15. Elliott Munn introduced the motion, spoke to the changes the committee made and also to the motion and moved for its adoption.

MOTION FAILED: 62.24% YES; 33.38% NO; 4.37% ABSTAIN

8. **BRING DOWN THE WALL IN THE CARRIBEAN: ENDING THE UNITED STATES EMBARGO ON CUBA**

Moderator Williams called on Daniel Ross-Jones (N Cal NV) to speak on behalf of Committee 4 regarding Bringing Down the Wall in the Caribbean: Ending the United States embargo on Cuba. Daniel Ross-Jones thanked the Committee for its hard work and indicated that substantial changes had been made to the amendment. After reviewing the changes and directing the General Synod to the changes, Daniel Ross-Jones moved the adoption of the Resolution as amended and then spoke to the motion.

Discussion:

Edward Davies (SC) Spoke in Favor

No further discussion

17-GS-23 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to adopt the Resolution as Amended entitled Bring Down the Wall in the Caribbean: Ending the United States Embargo on Cuba.

92.87%; 3.80%; 3.27%

**BRING DOWN THE WALL IN THE CARIBBEAN:
ENDING THE UNITED STATES EMBARGO ON CUBA**

A Resolution of Witness

Text of the Motion:

Whereas, United Church of Christ (UCC) General Synods have previously urged this diplomatic renewal with resolutions in the General Synods of 1979 and 1993, and the General Council action of 1983; and

Whereas, on 10 March of this year UCC General Minister and President Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer co-signed a letter to President Barack Obama, with other Christian and Jewish leaders in the U.S., expressing support for the president's historic trip to Cuba in March 2016, for the reopening of the U.S. embassy in Havana, and for President Obama's executive actions easing some of the travel and trade restrictions; and

Whereas, respected international human rights organizations like Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International have long opposed the U.S. embargo of Cuba;

Whereas, every year since 1992 the United Nations General Assembly has overwhelmingly condemned the U.S. embargo of Cuba; and

Whereas, recent polling indicates that 73 percent of all U.S. citizens (including 59 percent of Republicans) favor ending the embargo; and

Whereas, 53 percent of Cuban Americans, traditionally the Cuban government's most fervent critics, now favor ending the embargo, with only 31 percent wanting it continued; and

Whereas, the governments of the United States and Cuba have resumed formal diplomatic relations; President Obama has become the first sitting U.S. chief executive to visit Cuba in more than 80 years, and has used his constitutionally authorized executive prerogative to ease some trade and travel restrictions; and

Whereas, members of congregations belonging to the United Church of Christ in recent years have initiated people-to-people connections between Christians here and in Cuba, resuming a legacy of border crossings led by Rev. Theodore Braun, a longtime UCC pastor who, beginning in 1979, led 40 delegations of Christians from the U.S. for meetings with their sisters and brothers in Cuba;

Therefore, be it Resolved, that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ give thanks to God for the progress made since 2015 by the governments of Cuba and the United States toward demonstrating love of neighbor through the normalizing of diplomatic and economic relations; and

Be it Further Resolved, that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ support the initiatives of United Church of Christ congregations and others in developing friendships across the divide separating our countries, encourage additional delegations from our churches to visit Cuba, and invite and host Cuban clergy and lay leaders as our guests, in order to strengthen our bond as the body of Christ and mutually encourage one another to pursue reconciliation and justice between both countries leading to new policies; and

Be it Further Resolved, that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ continue to advocate for further United States administrative actions and congressional legislation in order to secure the full normalization of relations between our two countries, including but not limited to the consideration and passage of legislation that lifts travel and trade restrictions currently in place; and

Be it Further Resolved, that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ heartily supports honest and respectful negotiation between our governments to end the embargo, to restore mutual dignity, and to resolve political differences; and

Be it Finally Resolved, that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourage every setting of the United Church of Christ to further educate on the history of Cuba, of United States-Cuba relations, and the life of the church in Cuba, to attend to the testimony of our Cuban neighbors, and to glean wisdom and insight from those who have lived and ministered without access to social privilege for many years. May we be evangelized anew as their story, their determination, and their faithfulness remind us that the authority of the church is not assumed through social privilege, but is granted under the Spirit's direction. "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord" (Zechariah 4:6).

Funding

Funding for the implementation of the resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

Implementation

The Collegium of Officers, in consultation with appropriate ministries or other entities within the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.

9. RECOGNITION OF NEW AND RETIRING CONFERENCE MINISTERS

Moderator Elect Williams indicated that General Synod would recognize new and retiring Conference Ministers

Recently retired:

Walter John Boris from the Central Pacific Conference

Complete ministries before the next General Synod:

Charles Buck – Hawaii Conference

Alan Miller – Penn NE Conference

Roddy Dunkerson – Nebraska Conference

Rich Pleva – Iowa Conference

Moderator Artt gave particular attention to absence of John Deckenback, Central Atlantic Conference, whose untimely death last year is still keenly felt by the entire CCM.

Assistant Moderator Williams gave recognition to the following newly serving as settled Conference Ministers since Synod last met:

Csaba Krasznai – Calvin Synod

Ginny Brown Daniel – Missouri Mid-South Conference

Edith Guffey – Kansas Oklahoma Conference

Monica Dawkins-Smith – Penn Central Conference

Sue Artt – Rocky Mountain Conference

Don Longbottom – South Central Conference

Bill Lyons – Southwest Conference

And finally, recognition to those individuals whose service in our midst is temporary, but who are esteemed as full colleagues during their time serving in this role:

Marie Bacchiocchi – Southeast Conference

Chad Abbott – Indiana-Kentucky Conference

Denise Mason-Bullitt – Central Atlantic Conference

John Gantt – Ohio Conference

Shana Johnson – Illinois South Conference

Molly Carlson - Central Pacific Conference

Jim Anton – retiring next year

Lese Tu uao – Interim in Hawaii

Bonnie Bates - Interim

10. ON ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES FOR CULTURAL DIVERSITY TRAINING FOR AUTHORIZED MINISTERS.

Moderator Elect Williams called on David Bahr (RM) to introduce the next resolution entitled On Establishing Procedures for Cultural Diversity Training for Authorized Ministers. David Bahr thanked Committee 9 for its hard work on the resolution and indicated that they had made some minor change and reviewed them before making a motion that the resolution be adopted as amended and then spoke further to it.

Discussion:

Margaret Phillips (MOMS) Spoke in Favor

David Greenhaw (MOMS) Spoke Against

Beverly Lewis (CAC) Spoke in Favor

Margaret Phillips (OMS) Spoke in Favor

Andrew Greenhaw (SC) Spoke Against

Diane Johnson (NO CA NV) Amendment

Lines 9-11 to read: “upon all the judicatory and educational settings of the denomination to include the study and training in key principles and best practices of cultural diversity, inclusion and equity as well as anti-racism, unconscious bias and anti-white supremacy trainings”; and lines 17-18 “requirement, study and training”.

Brian Murray (CAC) Support amendment.

Margaret Phillips (MOMS) Spoke in Favor

17-GS-24 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to amend the resolution On Establishing Procedures for Cultural Diversity Training for Authorized Ministers as stated above.
92%; 6%; 2%

Devon Thomas (VT) Spoke in favor of original motion

Leadra Burch all (CAC) Amendment. Line 17. “as a witness by July, 2019”

Helen Hinkson (CAC) Seconded

No discussion on the Amendment

Vote on Amendment:

17-GS-25 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to amend the resolution On Establishing Procedures for Cultural Diversity Training for Authorized Ministers as stated above.
57.76%; 35.64%;
5.51%

John Kendall (Ill) Called the Question

Jeff Palmer (MINN) Seconded

17-GS-26 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to Call the Question.
92%; 6%; 2%

Assistant Moderator Williams indicated the vote on the original Motion as amended would take place.

17-GS-27 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to 93.82%; 4.56%; adopt the resolution, as amended, On Establishing Procedures for Cultural 1.62% Diversity Training for Authorized Ministers as stated above.

**ON ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES FOR CULTURAL DIVERSITY TRAINING
FOR AUTHORIZED MINISTERS**

A Resolution of Witness

Text of the Motion:

Whereas, in the year 1993, The Nineteenth General Synod adopted the "Statement of Christian Conviction of the Proposed Pronouncement Calling the United Church of Christ to be a Multiracial and Multicultural Church"; and

Whereas, by adopting the above statement the church called itself in all settings to be a true multiracial and multicultural church, “confessing and acting out its faith in the one sovereign God who through Jesus Christ binds in covenant faithful people of all races, ethnicities and cultures and to rejoice in these diversities as gifts to the human family in the variety of God's grace” and

Whereas, by the year 2045, the majority of United States citizens will be multicultural and multiracial with African, Asian, Latino, Pacific Islander and Native American roots demanding greater need for understanding and acceptance among all who claim through the Holy Spirit to belong to the Body of Christ; and

Whereas, in this year 2017, many United Church of Christ churches have been unable to fulfill the commitment made at the 19th General Synod and continue to reflect ‘the most segregated hour of the week’ leaving African Americans, Asian Americans, European Americans, Latino Americans, Native Americans, and Pacific Islander Americans in primarily African, Asian, European, Latino, Native, and Pacific Islander United Church of Christ churches isolated by their own ethnicity, unable to understand, reach out or support those in other ethnic communities affected by the widespread incidents of racial violence and injustice spreading across our country and rendering many of us impotent in the process of dismantling institutional racism, a task to which we are called as members of the body of Christ; and

Whereas, as people of faith and witnesses of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus of Galilee we are called to be a coalition of Easter people bound together by our support of one another, showing up for each other where there is injustice and celebrating together where there is joy, for “If one member suffers, all the members suffer with it, if one member is honored, all the members share its joy”; and

Whereas, the realization of Jesus’ prayer, “that they may all be one,” is impossible without self-reflection, serious study, and by engaging in safe, meaningful, substantive and bold

conversations on the brokenness and divisiveness created within the body of Christ by the realities of institutional racism, and by the lack of understanding and the failure to nurture and lift up our cultural differences and gifts; and

Whereas, there is considerable evidence that when people actually begin to share their own preconceptions, misunderstandings and fears about cultural diversity/sensitivity and institutional racism in discussions groups, boundaries and walls are dismantled and healing occurs; and

Whereas, the UCC's Local Church Ministries and the UCC's Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization team (MESA) published in April 2009 a revised list of "The Marks of Faithful and Effective Authorized Ministers of the United Church of Christ" and named in the marks of "Personal and Professional formation for Ministry" (Section 3) Item 14c "to accept and promote diversity, to inspire others to do so, and to minister in a multicultural and multiracial, open and affirming, just peace, accessible to all, united and uniting church" and "to encourage ongoing conversation regarding issues of ministry in the 21st century"; and

Whereas, the United Church of Christ and many seminaries, Conferences, Associations and local churches currently have curriculum resources available to facilitate the study of cultural diversity/sensitivity and institutional racism including a new curriculum, "White Privilege – Let's Talk," published by the United Church of Christ's Justice and Witness Ministries; and

Whereas, the authorized minister called upon to serve in each United Church of Christ ministry setting is the primary leader, teacher, and facilitator of such study and conversation,

Therefore be it resolved, that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon all the judicatory and educational settings of the denomination to include the study and training in key principles and best practices of cultural diversity, inclusion and equity as well as anti-racism, unconscious bias and anti-white supremacy trainings in clergy preparation, continuing education, and as an ongoing requirement for maintaining standing for all persons engaged in authorized ministry within and on behalf of the United Church of Christ;

Be it finally resolved that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ requests the United Church of Christ's Justice and Witness Ministries, the UCC's Local Church Ministries and the UCC's Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization team (MESA) cooperate by collecting best practices to support the implementation of such requirement, study and training as a witness by July, 2019.

Funding:

Funding for the implementation of the resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

Implementation:

The Collegium of Officers, in consultation with appropriate ministries or other entities within the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.

11. POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Wayne Martin (NH) Asked the General Synod to take a moment to appreciate the work of the moderators.

12. MUSIC INTERLUDE

Moderator Elect, Williams thanked the music director, Don Scott for contributing to the music interlude.

13. KEYNOTE ADDRESS – AARON MAIR, PRESIDENT, THE SIERRA CLUB

Moderator Elect Williams indicated that we are pleased to welcome our keynote speaker this morning, Aaron Mair. Aaron Mair has been an environmental activist for more than three decades, a volunteer leader with the Sierra Club for 25 years, and recently completed his term as the Sierra Club’s first African American president. Aaron Mair was also a key figure in leading the fight and securing the Sierra Club’s participation in the Clean Up the Hudson campaign, which resulted in a settlement between the EPA and General Electric to dredge toxic PCB sediments from the Upper Hudson River.

Aaron Mair spoke on the equality of all humanity.

14. THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

Raven Rowe. Asking the questions of what ways, new way, are we being called. To name the stuff in this moment, the spirit is still with us. There are a lot of different voices. People with disabilities spoke of their passions and their voices were heard. People living with the impact of impression and racism lifted up their voices. We are talking about rivers that are being made glad, but some of the people in our church are drowning from other waters and we cannot be ignorant to that. All voices are welcome at the table, we need to elevate the voices in the issues really matter.

15. ANNOUNCEMENT

Assistant Moderator Williams called on Lee Foley for the announcements.

Lee Foley greeted the Church and made the following announcements:

1. Thank you for your patience with the voting. Problem is with the Display.
2. Reminder of Immigration Rally
3. \$20,813.00 from Yesterday’s offering
4. Sign up for Speakouts
5. Enjoy your lunch.

16. LUNCH RECESS

Assistant Moderator Williams thanked Lee Foley for the announcements and declared the Fourth Plenary of Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ to be in recess at 11:43am

Monday Afternoon, July 3, 2017
Fifth Plenary Session

1. CALL TO ORDER AND SPONSOR RECOGNITION

Moderator Artt called to order the Fifth Plenary of the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ at 2:34 pm and asked General Synod to draw their attention to the large screens in the hall for a word from another one of our partners, the Insurance Board.

Moderator Artt thanked the Insurance Board for their generous support.

2. SPEAKOUT!

Moderator Sue Artt recognized the following SpeakOut! Participants:

Monica Dawkins Smith (PC) – Lancaster Seminary

Kelly Lapeer (SC) – Prayers for the law enforcement community and for the civilians and the members of the media who live with memories of the event. Give peace a chance.

Campbell Lovett (MICH) – Mike Mapes and the witness of Rock Spring, Slashing of the Institute of Peace eliminating all funding of all peace.

Howard Tejchma (MICH) – Re-Member

Kent Salidi, Barbara Libby, Jim Antal, (CCM, MASS, CONN, RI) – New Conference of the United Church of Christ combining.

Ruth Shaver (PW) – Pathways to equip those who God has called to ministry, on line.

Rachel Keef (MINN) – Mental Health Network of the UCC - WISE

Brenda Dalton James (SOC) – Meet and greet extended by the Council of Elders of the Franklinton Center.

Leslie Strong (MOMS) – United Black Christians. All need to be encouraging inclusion.

Ruth Hanson (WISC) – Human Trafficking/Sexual Trafficking.

Moderator Artt reminded everyone that the next SpeakOut! will be at the beginning of the next Plenary and sign-ups would be immediately following this plenary session.

3. THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

Moderator Artt invited Damaris Whittaker to give the afternoon's opening reflection.

Damaris Whittaker invited everyone to "Be in Silence and prayer together. Spirit of the Living God Fall Afresh on us."

4. GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE'S PROPOSED AMENDMENTS RELATED TO THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST BOARD AND ITS OFFICERS:

Moderator Artt called Geoff Brace (UCCB), Chair of the Governance Committee.

Geoff Brace extended a word of gratitude to the Governance Committee and the Board; Heather Kimmel, General Counsel and Richard Hilbrich, Associate General Counsel; Chief

Administrator, Lee Foley and Jan Gomol, Associate Administrator; Geoff Brace also expressed appreciation for the support of the Council of Conference Minister, and the local churches.

Geoff Brace moved the adoption of the proposed amendments to the United Church of Christ Constitution and By Laws related primarily to the United Church of Christ Board of Directors and its structures and the number and responsibility of its officers. The changes have been available via the General Synod Website since March 2017.

Geoff Brace spoke to the motion and indicated that the changes would lead to more efficient and effective ministry.

5. POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Bob Stevens (PENN) Pastor of Geoff Brace's church, expressed appreciation for the dedication and diligence by Geoff Brace, not only on behalf of General Synod, but also on behalf of his local church and asked for a commendation of appreciation from the General Synod on behalf of Geoff Brace. Applause!

Discussion:

Kevin Monroe (CAC) Spoke In Favor
Scott Jones (NEB) Spoke Against
Neil Meese (PENN) Spoke in Favor
Barry Jacobson (NH) Spoke Against
Kim Wood (ILL) Spoke in Favor

17-GS-28 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to 81% 14% 5% Approve the proposed amendments to the United Church of Christ Constitution and By Laws related primarily to the United Church of Christ Board of Directors and its structures and the number and responsibility of its Officers.

6. THE DISPARITY OF RIGHTS OF ADOPTEES TO ACCESS BIRTH RECORDS FOR ADULTS

51% 50% 9%
Motion Defeated. Not 2/3rd as required.

7. PRESENTATION OF THE CARRIBEAN INITIATIVE

Moderator Artt invited Jim Moos, the Executive Minister of Wider Church Ministries and the Co-Executive of Global Ministries.

Jim Moos indicated that in conjunction with our Disciples partners General Synod was invited to have an important new program to bring justice to thousands of our neighbors.

Jim Moos introduced Joel Ortego Dopico and together they provided information regarding relationships with Cuba, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Venezuela and Colombia. The Caribbean Initiative will work where people experience disparity, violence and

injustice as they face these issues and will take action on the issues. The issues include working for the rights and well-being of 100,000 stateless people who were unlawfully deported from the Dominican Republic to Haiti; advocating for the end of the economic blockade against Cuba that hinders Cuba's ability to provide basic needs for its citizens; supporting the Peace Accords in Colombia, which are both crucial and confusing; and giving voice to the ways climate change is altering Caribbean life with rising sea levels, coastal erosion, and drying rivers.

An invitation was extended to join in walking in solidarity with global partners for the next year and a half of the Caribbean Initiative. Global Ministries will offer advocacy, study, and worship materials to engage with congregation. Bible studies will allow a fresh look at God's love for humanity and creation in the context of the Caribbean. Videos will transport congregations to the places that testify about the abundance of life in the midst of despair and sorrow.

Special giving opportunities will enhance the work and ministry in the Caribbean. A children's curriculum will encourage children to seek the "Fruits of the Spirit" while learning about the experiences of children in the Caribbean. Through the initiative, both the UCC and Disciples will have the opportunity to embrace the spirit of solidarity in presence and accompaniment.

8. POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Edith Guffy (KO) – Expressed concern about the Purpose, Mission, Vision Statement in that General Synod did not have a voice in its adoption.

9. AFFIRMING THE COALITION OF IMMOKALEE WORKERS' BOYCOTT OF WENDY'S.

Moderator Artt called on Jeff Roeger (OHIO) to bring a Motion regarding Affirming the Coalition of Immokalee Workers' Boycott of Wendy's.

Jeff Roeger on behalf of Committee 13 asked that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopt the Motion regarding Affirming the Coalition of Immokalee Workers' Boycott of Wendy's. Jeff Roeger then spoke to the Motion.

Discussion:

John Vertigan (FL) Spoke in Favor

Jeffrey Tuper-Giles (Vermont) Spoke in Favor

William Wildman (MASS) Calling for people to support Foster Care Adoption

Kent Saladi (CONN) Spoke in Favor

Paul Fogle (UCCDM) Calling that we keep in mind the people this would affect.

Marilyn Pagan Banks (ILL) Spoke in Favor

Felix Villanueva (C NE S) Support the workers, but is concerned of naming the enemy

Ethan Drutchas (MICH) Spoke in Favor

JT Hills (IK) Spoke in Favor

17-GS-29 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to 86%; 10%; 4% adopt the resolution Affirming the Coalition of Immokalee Workers' Boycott of Wendy's.

**AFFIRMING THE COALITION OF IMMOKALEE WORKERS' BOYCOTT OF
WENDY'S**
A Resolution of Witness

Text of the Motion

Whereas, farmworkers are among the most oppressed workers in the United States;

Whereas, the United Church of Christ has long supported farmworkers' struggle for justice;

Whereas, in 1973, General Synod IX suspended most of its work for 24 hours while nearly 100 pilgrims travelled from St. Louis to California's Coachella Valley to stand with farmworkers threatened with violence;

Whereas, in 2001, when the Coalition of Immokalee Workers called for a boycott of Taco Bell (the company that would eventually become the first to sign on to the Fair Food Program), GS XXIII endorsed the boycott and the United Church of Christ became the first denomination (of many, eventually) to support it;

Whereas, in 2005, GS XXV passed a resolution that celebrated Taco Bell's entry into the Fair Food Program (then called the Fair Food Alliance) and encouraged the United Church of Christ to "*support the CIW in its efforts to extend this new model of corporate social responsibility throughout the fast food industry*" (italics added);

Whereas, in 2009, when GS XXVII met in Tampa, many United Church of Christ members devoted a portion of their lunch break to march to a nearby Publix grocery store to encourage that supermarket chain to join the Fair Food Program;

Whereas, two years ago a letter calling on Wendy's to join the Fair Food Program, signed by nearly two-dozen faith leaders including the United Church of Christ's General Minister and President Rev. Geoffrey Black, was presented to Wendy's Board of Directors at the 2014 shareholder meeting;

Whereas, numerous United Church of Christ congregations and members have marched, hosted marchers, participated in rallies and other events, sent letters and postcards, held workshops, and acted in a variety of ways to support the Coalition of Immokalee Workers and pressure Wendy's to join the Fair Food Program;

Whereas, 10 years of activities and efforts to encourage Wendy's to join the Fair Food Program have been unsuccessful;

Whereas, a boycott is a major undertaking and not to be embarked upon without great care, it is now a necessary next step given the failure of the great many efforts made over the last ten years to encourage Wendy's to join the Fair Food Program;

Whereas, the UCC Florida Conference at their Spring Gathering (April 29-30, 2016) endorsed the boycott of Wendy's as did the Central Atlantic Conference at their Annual Meeting in June 2016; and

Whereas, the United Church of Christ Board of Directors endorsed the boycott in May 2016.

Therefore. Be it Resolved That the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ endorses the Coalition of Immokalee Workers' boycott of Wendy's and calls on all settings of the United Church of Christ to become informed about farm workers' lives and working conditions and to honor the CIW boycott.

Funding:

The funding for the implementation of this resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

Implementation:

The Collegium of Officers, in consultation with appropriate ministries or other entities within the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.

10. THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S - NOT OURS TO WRECK – IMPERATIVES FOR A NEW MORAL ERA.

Moderator Artt introduced Marilyn Kendrix (CONN) to speak on the resolution entitled Motion on The Earth is the Lord's Not Ours to Wreck – Imperatives for a New Moral Era.

Marilyn Kendrix brought a Motion on the Earth is the Lord's Not Ours to Wreck – Imperatives for a New Moral Era. Marilyn Kendrix indicated that the changes were made to make the witness stronger.

Discussion:

Jim Antal (MASS) Spoke in Favor
Felix Villanueva (CA NV, S) Spoke in Favor
John Lof (IOWA) Spoke in Favor
Pam Arifian (CONN) Spoke in Favor
Phil Poter, (CA NV N) Spoke in Favor
Cassandra Grandos (NY) Call the Question.
Silas Stockey (ILL) Second

17-GS-30 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to end discussion on the motion.
97%; 3%; 1%

17-GS-31 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to adopt the resolution entitled The Earth is the Lord's – Not Ours to Wreck Imperatives for a New Moral Era
97%; 3%; 1%

THE EARTH IS THE LORD’S – NOT OURS TO WRECK
IMPERATIVES FOR A NEW MORAL ERA
A Resolution of Witness

Text of the Motion:

Whereas the leaders of over 190 countries have signed the Paris Climate Accord, acknowledging the critical role every country must play if the life-sustaining climate of the earth is to continue to sustain life as we have always known it;

Whereas the mayors of 30 American cities, the governors of numerous states and leaders of hundreds of American companies have publicly committed the institutions they lead to reducing greenhouse gas emissions in compliance with the Paris Climate Accord;

Whereas over the past 50 years the UCC, along with religious leaders from other faiths and denominations, have issued countless statements on the goodness of Creation and our call to act as responsible stewards, all of which has been an insufficient witness;

Whereas the Core Purpose of the United Church of Christ states (in part): “... we serve God in the co-creation of a just and sustainable world as made manifest in the Gospel of Jesus Christ,”

Whereas this historic moment provides Christian communities with a powerful opportunity to bear witness to the sacredness of God’s Creation and the urgent call to preserve it, and responding to this call expresses the new mission initiative of the UCC known as The Three Great Loves, one of which is love of creation;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ raises its prophetic voice regarding the urgency of healing the climate of the earth, our home and God’s gift for the future of all life, both human and all other life,

Be it further resolved, that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon the whole of the church to prayerfully engage the following imperatives as we seek to initiate a new moral era:

Let our clergy accept the mantle of moral leadership

Now is the time for clergy to speak from their pulpits about the moral obligation of our generation to protect God’s creation. Let the world know that whatever the current American administration may say or do, we who follow Jesus will not back away from God’s call to protect our common home.

Let all of us incarnate the changes we long for

Now is the time for congregations and for every person of faith to set a moral example through our own words and actions. As individuals and as communities, let us commit to making decisions of integrity in our energy choices, even as we commit to hold our political leaders accountable to do the same.

Let us proclaim truth in the public square

We are now living in a John 18:37 moment, in which we must hold to the truth we understand from our two Testaments and from the sacred book of nature, recognizing that when truth is compromised, only power prevails.

- Let our communities of faith be bold and courageous as we address the greatest moral challenge that the world has ever faced.
- Let us commit to resist all expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure and demand new sources of renewable energy that are accessible to all communities.
- Let us do all we can to change America's understanding of the story that our generation is writing. Let us begin a new story – a story that is not dependent on fossil fuel or on wealth for the few and misery for the many.

Accepting that it is up to us – we the people – whether in the streets, at the State House, in the halls of power, with our phones and emails, by committing our time, financial resources and prayers – let us pour ourselves out to bend the moral arc of justice, with joy in our hearts, beauty in our sights, and hope for the children.

Funding:

Funding for the implementation of this Resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

Implementation:

The Collegium of Officers, in consultation with appropriate ministries or other entities within the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.

11. AFFIRMING AND SUPPORTING THE AUTHORIZED MINISTRIES OF UNDER-REPRESENTED CLERGY IN LOCAL CONGREGATIONS: A CALL FOR GREATER REPRESENTATION AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Moderator Artt called on Aaron Roberts (KO) to bring the Motion.

Aaron Roberts moved that the General Synod adopt the Resolution and Supporting the Authorized Ministries Under-Represented Clergy in Local Congregations: A Call for Greater Representation and Economic Justice.

Marcia Williams also spoke to the Motion.

Discussion:

Beth Donaldson (MINN) Spoke in Favor

Charmaine Penn-Johnson (SE) Patrice Smallwood (SO) Spoke in Favor

Donald Morgan (IOWA) Spoke in Favor

Kelli Parrish Lucas (UCCDM) Amend Motion. Change “degree of enableness” to “disability” in lines (29, 31, 71 080)

Paul Fogel (UCCDM) Seconded the Motion to Amend

Discussion:
No Discussion

17-GS-32 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to amend the resolution changing the wording from “degree of enableness” to “disability”.
80% 12% 8%

Return to the original motion

Dena Holland-Neal (IK) Spoke in Favor
Doug Lander (PENN NE) Spoke in Favor
Daniel Thorn (CAC) Spoke in Favor

12. ORDER OF THE DAY

Moderator Artt announced it was time to call the Order of the Day and the discussion on the Motion would continue at the next Plenary.

13. SHAPING OUR FUTURE CAMPAIGN

Moderator Artt called Frank Bolden, incoming Chair of the Board, and Don Clark to speak about a new campaign called Shaping our Future.

The Shaping Our Future Campaign aims to raise funds for immediate needs and to build a dedicated endowment over the next year that provides financial resources for mission and program initiatives for the Office of General Minister and President.

Frank Bolden indicated that the world is changing and we need to develop leadership programs that will sustain the church into the future. Technology and innovation are needed to support the collective ministries, and funding is needed to launch emerging ideas that hold significant potential for our denomination. In the 60-year history of the UCC, there hasn't been any long-term planning to endow the Office of the General Minister and President. The campaign has \$2.5 million in funding that has been raised. Members of the wider church are invited to give. The financial resources raised by the campaign will fulfill two primary purposes: provide immediate support for initiatives that shape and create a church for future generations, and create an endowment fund to ensure future financial resources needed to support the ministry of the Office of General Minister and President. The endowment exists to "empower, inspire, and demonstrate the vision of the United Church of Christ. Income from the endowment may be used to provide financial resources for administrative and operating support for the Office of the General Minister and President, and to support programs and services of that office. The hope is to have funds available to support technological infrastructures, and to create revenues.

14. THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

Moderator Artt called on Damaris Whittaker for the theological reflection.

Damaris Whittaker reflected on becoming each other's keeper, to help the hurting. It is love that holds us together. Called on General Synod of the United Church of Christ to "dance" and say you are my partner in option, not the object of my mission.

15. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Moderator Artt called on called on Lee Foley, Synod Administrator, for announcements.

Lee Foley greeted the Church and made the following announcements:

1. Lost and Found Located in Room 333
2. Collecting Clickers at the end of the last plenary. \$100.00 fee if you lose it
3. SpeakOut! sign-ups immediately following plenary.

16. RECESS

Moderator Artt declared the Fifth Plenary to be complete at 5:00 p.m. and the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ to be in recess until 8:00 p.m.

Monday Evening, July 3, 2017

Sixth Plenary Session

1. CALL TO ORDER AND SPONSOR RECOGNITION

Moderator Artt called the Sixth Plenary Session of the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ to order at 8:00 p.m. and called on the Pension Boards, as one of the sponsors for their presentation and thanked them for their support and sponsorship.

Moderator Artt then called on the following SpeakOut! participants.

2. SPEAKOUT!

Marilyn Kendrix (CONN) – Become more informed about incarceration and the criminal justice system.

Brody Huwer (SD), Dylan Kitchen (NEB), Dixie Laube (IOWA) – Conference Minister search bringing all three conferences together in shared relationship.

Emma Ritchie (PNW) – Youth Delegate opportunities to be involved have not been handled well.

Becky Hoover (PSE) – Thank you to Portia Herrin and Libby Foos for great coordination of children and youth events.

Ernest Potter (ILL) – Budget presentation did not allow delegates input and needs more clarification.

LaVerne Joseph (CA NV, S) – Request delegates to call for restoration of HUD programs.

Jasmine Coleman Quinerly (SOC) – Invite to Women's Retreat in Texas

Grace Hetricia (PSE) – Thank you to Barbara Daniels. Youth leadership and volunteers for coordinating the youth at the conference and thank you for experience.

Jeanette Brown (CAC) – Request delegates to write to representatives to keeping railroads funded.

Moderator Artt indicated that Speakout! for Plenary 6 is completed, the next Speakout! will be during the next plenary and sign-ups would take place following this plenary.

3. THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

Moderator Artt invited Raven Rowe for the theological reflection.

Raven Rowe invited delegates to reflect on queer theology listen to ways we claim ourselves today.

4. RETURN TO THE SUSPENDED BUSINESS – AFFIRMING THE AUTHORIZED MINISTRY OF UNDER-REPRESENTED CLERGY.

Moderator Artt indicated it was time to return to the suspended business of the earlier plenary and discussion would continue on resolution Affirming the Authorized Minister of Under-Represented Clergy.

Discussion:

Rich Roedner (ME) Amendment to insert the word “age” after ethnicity on lines 20, 41 and 79.
Dylan Povencher (ME) Seconded.

Discussion:

No Discussion

17-GS-33 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to amend the resolution adding the word age after ethnicity on lines 20, 41 and 79.
75%; 13%; 4%

Moderator Artt called on the delegates to return to the original motion with the two amendments.

Discussion:

Bill Worley (PSE) Spoke in Favor

Moderator Artt indicated the delegates would now vote on the original resolution as amended.

17-GS-34 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to adopt the resolution as amended Affirming and Supporting the Authorized Ministries of Under-Represented Clergy in Local Congregations – A call for Greater Representation and Economic Justice.
93%; 4%; 2%

AFFIRMING AND SUPPORTING THE AUTHORIZED MINISTRIES OF UNDER-REPRESENTED CLERGY IN LOCAL CONGREGATIONS: A CALL FOR GREATER REPRESENTATION AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE

A Prudential Resolution

Text of the Motion:

Whereas, “God created humankind in God’s image,” so that we human beings have been gifted to become co-creators with the divine and are thus ultimately responsible for what we are to make of our own lives together (Genesis 1:27a [NRSV]);

Whereas, our life together means that “we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another,” so that we are called by God to create a beloved community of mutuality whereby each person can be the benefactor and beneficiary of all persons and therefore can realize his or her full humanity (Romans 12:5 [NRSV]);

Whereas, we acknowledge and confess that it is not right to disregard this call and thereby prevent all God's children from becoming fully who they are created to be;

Whereas, as God’s children we know that we must do more to love others as we do ourselves and must acknowledge that God has given us the beauty and magnificence of the full spectrum of race, ethnicity, age, gender, sexuality, degree of ableness, and gender identity and expression in our world and that this spectrum must be more fully represented in the pulpits of our churches;

Whereas, we acknowledge and confess that in our fractured world racism, ethnocentrism, sexism, heterosexism, ableism, and cisgender bias have vitiated our attempts to form the beloved community and are therefore an affront to God as well as to our oneness in Jesus Christ, in which there is to be “no longer Jew or Greek . . . slave or free . . . male and female” (Galatians 3:28a [NRSV]);

Whereas, we are called accordingly to denounce institutional structures that separate God’s people based upon differences in race, ethnicity, age, gender, sexual orientation, degree of ableness, and gender identity and expression;

Whereas, we are further called to dismantle institutional structures and shadow ministries that – by intention or effect – construct or perpetuate systems and processes that objectify, exclude, and divide persons, as well as those that establish and propagate prejudices or maintain the status quo, including “pulpit requirements” that result in the installation of pastors and leaders who most closely resemble the congregations whom they serve and thereby prevent those same congregations from enjoying the gift of diversity;

Whereas, the United Church of Christ at its Eleventh General Synod (1977), its Thirteenth General Synod (1981), its Fifteenth General Synod (1985), and its Twentieth General Synod (1995) urged all settings to employ “persons with disabilities,” including clergy, and at its Twenty-Second General Synod (1999) adopted a resolution entitled “The Calling of Clergy with Disabilities”;

Whereas, the United Church of Christ at its Fifteenth General Synod (1985) adopted a resolution “Calling on UCC Congregations to Declare Themselves Open and Affirming” and at its Eighteenth General Synod (1991) adopted a resolution “Affirming Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Persons and their Ministries”;

Whereas, the United Church of Christ at its Nineteenth General Synod (1993) adopted a resolution which called upon the UCC in all its settings to become a truly multiracial and multicultural church;

Whereas, the United Church of Christ at its Twenty-Fourth General Synod (2003) adopted a resolution entitled “Affirming the Participation and Ministry of Transgender Peoples within the UCC and Supporting their Civil and Human Rights,” which, inter alia, encourages all UCC congregations “to welcome transgender people into membership, ministry, and full participation”;

Whereas, the United Church of Christ at its Twenty-Second General Synod (1999) adopted, as part of a resolution entitled “Fair and Just Compensation,” a report to the Twenty-First General Synod that called for the same “attention and vigilance . . . to the fair and just treatment of persons called and employed by various settings of the UCC” as the denomination demonstrates “in the workplaces of society”;

Whereas, the United Church of Christ at its Twenty-Second General Synod (1999) adopted a resolution entitled “Pastoral Compensation” that called for an immediate review of compensation plans for clergy serving Native American congregations and for recommendations to be made to the Twenty-Third General Synod “to correct the existing disparities in compensation for clergy serving American Indian congregations”;

Whereas, the historic social justice advocacy of the UCC – as witnessed by the aforementioned resolutions – has sought to manifest itself in multiple ways to create truly emancipative change that is inspired by the biblical writings, the prophets, the teachings and life of Jesus, the historic cloud of witnesses to the Christian faith, and the leaders of transformational movements for universal peace, justice, and equality, and that is enacted in the light of God’s unbounded love for all creation;

Whereas, UCC theology and polity permit its different ministries to witness and advocate in ways that are faithful to the Christian gospel, fitting to their unique gifts, and functional in their particular contexts;

Whereas, diversity in ministry is a good and a blessing, and just as it has been facilitated by the establishment of clear and attainable pathways to ordination for members of under-represented groups, so also it must be encouraged by the enactment of pro-active policies designed by congregational search committees to engage such individuals in the congregational search process;

Whereas, the generally low percentages of clergy from under-represented groups in the denomination’s solo and senior pastorates indicate there is still much work to be done in realizing a truly representative, just, and inclusive ordained ministry in our churches;

Whereas, the collection, tracking, reporting, and analysis of data regarding the composition and compensation of, as well as the complexion of candidacy pools for, authorized ministerial positions in local churches have been incomplete and/or inconsistent;

Whereas, there are no current means to certify that there is fair application of compensation guidelines; and

Whereas, experience has taught us that clergy from under-represented groups are often paid less than their counterparts in comparable ministerial settings, resulting in congregational-serving UCC clergy from under-represented groups often having less in their pension funds for retirement than those counterparts;

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon:

1. UCC congregations, through open dialogue, and discussion, and education to seek to identify and eliminate barriers to authorized ministry that are based upon institutional bias;
2. UCC congregations to carry out search processes for their authorized ministers, as well as to examine and – if need be – amend or emend their personnel policies, in ways that heed the Holy Spirit’s call for inclusiveness and justice;
3. UCC congregations to heed that call not only by eliminating explicit and implicit policies and procedures that exclude candidates to authorized ministerial positions on the basis of race, ethnicity, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender, and gender identity and expression, but also – and perhaps more importantly – by implementing policies and procedures, including statements in their church profiles, that welcome and include the widest diversity of candidates possible;
4. the search committees of UCC congregations to interview persons from under-represented groups for all their authorized ministerial positions;
5. each authorized ministerial search committee of a UCC congregation to certify to those responsible for the administration and oversight of its Conference’s search and call process that there is diversity of race, gender, sexual orientation, and/or disability to the extent that such can be and is known in the candidacy pool beginning at the first interview stage, and also to certify that a diversity of candidates has been or will be interviewed for the authorized ministerial position, and that, where there is a lack of such diversity, each authorized ministerial search committee of a UCC congregation will work with those responsible for the administration and oversight of its Conference’s search and call process to identify such candidates;
6. the candidates for authorized ministry in a local church to be in contact with their Conference’s office, as well as those responsible for the administration and oversight of that Conference’s search and call process to assist such candidates as they prepare for the search interview process;
7. UCC congregations to commit to comparable compensation and promotion of its authorized ministers who have similar qualifications and responsibilities, regardless of their race, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and expression, or disability and to be assisted in this endeavor by attending and adhering closely to their Conference’s compensation guidelines;

8. the many UCC Conference and Association committees on ministry, the UCC's Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization Team (MESA), and those responsible for the administration and oversight of the Conferences' search and call processes to develop strategies to ensure fair and equitable compensation packages and to explore ways in which local congregations can certify that their compensation package(s) are meeting certain minimum standards, including those related to benefits and pensions;

9. the Boards of Directors of the Conferences, in consultation with the Associations of the Conferences, to continue to acknowledge, examine, and help address the economic challenges facing authorized ministers in the UCC;

10. those responsible for the administration and oversight of their Conference's search and call process to encourage the inclusion of members of under-represented groups in their Conference's local church authorized ministerial searches, and to specify a means to provide leadership, guidance, and training, including inclusion strategies and practices, to their local church search committees in order that they may seriously consider and call diverse authorized ministerial leadership;

11. those responsible for the administration and oversight of their Conference's search and call process to identify a means to collect and disseminate annual demographic data related to all local church authorized ministers in their Conference beginning no later than 2018;

12. those responsible for the administration and oversight of their Conference's search and call process to develop and implement a strategic plan, based upon the initial demographic data collected, that sets out specific diversity goals and objectives as a means of informing and alerting the congregations of their Conference about best practices in creating opportunities and meeting expectations for greater inclusion, comparable compensation, and equitable promotion of individuals from under-represented groups with respect to local church authorized ministerial positions;

13. those responsible for the administration and oversight of their Conference's search and call process to deliver to their Board of Directors copies of the aforementioned strategic plans within six (6) months of the collection of the initial demographic data;

14. the Associations of a Conference to assist in encouraging and supporting the progress of their local congregations in reaching these specified diversity goals and objectives and the Board of Directors of each Conference to certify to its apposite Conference Annual Meeting the status of that progress;

15. the UCC's Center for Analytics, Research and Data (CARD) and the UCC's Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization team (MESA) to develop a strategic plan to collect (through, among other means, requests for annual reports/reviews of clergy employment and compensation) data by race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, and disability, such data to include composition at the assistant, associate, senior, and solo pastor levels, comparative compensation, and representation in selection pools – all in order to track and measure the realization of a truly representative, just, and inclusive ordained ministry in our churches; and

16. the Board of Directors of the UCC to send a copy of this resolution to the UCC's Center for Analytics, Research and Data (CARD) and to the UCC's Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization team (MESA).

Funding:

The funding for the implementation of this resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

The Collegium of Officers, in consultation with appropriate ministries or other entities within the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.

5. ON RECOGNIZING AND STUDYING GUN VIOLENCE AS A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.

Moderator Artt indicated the next resolution was another one of the resolutions that the youth would be addressing and asked the delegates to allow the youth to speak without objection.

17-GS-35 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to allow the youth to speak without objection.

Moderator Artt called on Marilyn Kendrix (CONN) to bring the motion.

Marilyn Kendrix indicated that the committee had made some changes and referred to the changes. Marilyn Kendrix asked the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ

to consider the Motion on Recognizing and Studying Gun Violence as a Public Health Emergency. After thanking the committee Marilyn Kendrix then spoke to the Motion.

Moderator Artt recognized the following youth speaking in favor on behalf of the Motion.

Abby Martinelli (CAC); Reed Young (MASS); Hannah Eastman (CAC); Norah Duncan (OHIO); Trevor Weekly (CAC); and Kevin Lightman (SOC) – It is crucial for the delegates to focus on this resolution because, as all of the youth indicated, it affects their lives and the only way we can improve our world is to focus on the issues that plague our society.

6. POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Cassandra Granado (NY) and Gary Gossel (NY) Expressed dismay at the graphics displayed during the presentation and viewed them as racial and in very poor taste.

Moderator Artt indicated that while it was unfortunate and unintentional, and even though they were not seen by the moderator apologized for the display. Moderator Artt called for discussion on the motion.

Discussion:

David King (MASS) Spoke in favor

7. **POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE**

Nathan Hart (PW) Has been involved in ALICE training and students are never involved or subjected to the types of training exercises mentioned earlier by the youth.

Paul Fogle (UCCDM) Spoke in favor
Michael Readinger (UCCB, CHSSM) Spoke in favor
Hannah Robinson (MICH) Spoke in favor

Ray Jordan (SC) Called the Question
Jameson Baxter (PNE) Seconded

Moderator Artt asked the General Synod of the United Church of Christ to vote on the decision to end discussion on the motion

17-GS-36 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to end discussion on the motion.
86%; 13%; 1%

Moderator Artt indicated the delegates would now vote on the original resolution as amended.

17-GS-37 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to adopt the resolution On Recognizing and Studying Gun Violence as a Public Health Emergency.
97%; 3%; 0%

ON RECOGNIZING AND STUDYING GUN VIOLENCE
AS A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY
A Resolution of Witness

Text of the Motion:

Whereas, in 1996 at the urging of the National Rifle Association, the Congress of the United States has prevented federal money from being spent on researching gun violence and has actively restricted the nation’s principal public health agency, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from looking into why the United States has five times the rate of gun deaths per year than most European countries; and

Whereas, in October 2015 a group of 110 U.S. Representatives, led by U.S. Rep. David Price (D-N.C.), called on House of Representatives leaders “to reject short-sighted and unnecessary riders that freeze gun violence research,” and that the United States response to the increasing gun-violence, while debated, “should be informed by sound scientific evidence;” and

Whereas, in June 2016 the American Medical Association adopted a position that the United States is facing a ‘public health crisis in gun violence’ that requires a comprehensive public health response and solution and will actively lobby Congress to overturn the restrictions on the CDC; and

Whereas, the CDC has successfully led on research related to many non-medical public health emergencies — such as automobile safety, safeguards related to children’s toys, and tobacco

education — that has resulted in significantly reduced rates of senseless death and injury; and Whereas, the United Church of Christ as reaffirmed many times its longstanding commitments to both social justice and public health,

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges the recognition of gun violence as a public health emergency with gun deaths (including homicide, suicide, and unintentional shootings) estimated to have reached 35,000 by the end of 2016;

Be it further resolved that the Thirty-first General Synod encourages the Congress of the United States to allocate federal funding for scientific research of gun violence by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health and to openly debate methods to improve gun safety, training and storage to reduce gun deaths;

Be it finally resolved that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges members and other settings of the United Church of Christ to actively speak out against restrictive legislation that seeks to silence or stifle the scientific and medical community from providing sound methods to save and improve the lives of all of God's people.

Funding:

Funding for the implementation of the resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

Implementation:

The Collegium of Officers, in consultation with appropriate ministries or other entities within the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.

8. RESOLUTION OF WITNESS IN SUPPORT OF ADULT SURVIVORS OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT.

Moderator Artt called on Sarah Frische-Mouri Hannigan, (IK) to introduce the Resolution of Witness in Support of Adult Survivors of Child Abuse and Neglect.

Sarah Frische-Mouri Hannigan introduced the resolution and indicated that there were three substantive changes, which were reviewed with the delegates. Sarah Frische-Louri Hannigan then asked the delegates to approve the motion and also spoke to the motion.

Discussion:

Allison Betts (SC) Spoke in Favor
Nathaniel Mulder (PNW) Spoke in Favor
Brody Huwer (SD) Spoke in Favor
Colie Bettivia (WISC) In Support of Resolution

Gabriel McKelvey (WISC) Called the Question
Kevin Mundell (WISC) Seconded

17-GS-38 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to end discussion on the motion. 98%; 1% 0%

Moderator Artt indicated the delegates would now vote on the original resolution.

17-GS-39 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to adopt the Resolution Of Witness in Support of Adult Survivors of Child Abuse and Neglect. 98% 2%; 0%

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ADULT SURVIVORS
OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT
A Resolution of Witness

Text of the Motion:

Whereas, Jesus declared in Matthew 25:40, “Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, ye have done it unto me”;

Whereas, Jesus asked in Matthew 7:9, “What man is there of you, whom if his son asks for bread, will he give him a stone?”;

Whereas, Jesus says in Matthew 18: 6-7, “But who so shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea”;

Whereas, one in four girls and one in six boys will be sexually assaulted before they reach the age of eighteen;

Whereas, the incidence rate of child abuse and neglect is 10 times as high (40 children per 1,000 children per year) as the incidence rate for all forms of cancer (3.9 individuals per 1,000 individuals per year),

Whereas, children in their first year have the highest rate of victimization (24.4 children per 1,000 children) among individuals in respect to any one-year span in the national population;

Whereas, 80% of perpetrators are parents;

Whereas, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES), or the various forms of abuse and neglect (e.g., psychological, physical, sexual) that children experience often as a result of household dysfunction (e.g., domestic violence, substance abuse, mental illness), are the most preventable causes of serious mental illness, drug and alcohol abuse in women, and high-risk behavior (e.g., IV drugs, promiscuity) for HIV, as well as significant contributors to the leading causes of death in the general population (heart disease, cancer, stroke, diabetes, and suicide);

Whereas, ACES have a negative impact on child development, as manifested in adverse neurobiological effects (e.g., brain abnormalities, stress hormone dysregulation), deleterious

psychosocial consequences (e.g., poor attachment, poor socialization, poor self-efficacy), and significant health-risk behaviors (e.g., smoking, obesity, substance abuse, promiscuity);

Whereas, ACES also have significant long-term consequences, including the occurrence and recurrence of various diseases, dysfunctional coping and disabilities (e.g., major depression, suicide, PTSD, drug and alcohol abuse, heart disease, cancer, chronic lung disease, sexually transmitted diseases, intergenerational transmission of abuse), and assorted social problems (e.g., homelessness, prostitution, criminal behavior, dysfunctional parenting, inordinate utilization of health and social services), often resulting in shortened lifespans;

Whereas, the estimated total lifetime financial costs associated with all confirmed cases of child maltreatment (physical abuse, sexual abuse, and psychological abuse and neglect) is approximately \$124 billion for every year of maltreatment;

Whereas, arbitrary statutes of limitations deny most adult survivors of child abuse and neglect some means of just recompense for the crimes committed against them as children, as it is very common for survivors to struggle for decades (and long after the expiry of such statutes) before properly making the connection between childhood abuse and the struggles they often experience;

Whereas, eliminating such statutes of limitations will provide many such survivors the opportunity to gain just recompense from their perpetrators and/or the organizations that failed to protect them (e.g., schools, daycare centers, religious associations, sports clubs, activity clubs);

Whereas, many survivors of child abuse and neglect often experience spiritual struggles in the course of healing, trying to come closer to God as they question how God could allow such abuse and neglect to happen in the first place. Indeed, trauma can shake people's faith in a natural or divine order and cast them into a state of existential crisis whereby they begin to lose trust in an all-powerful and good God, assume that their world is anything but safe and well-ordered, and believe that they themselves are wicked and deserving of bad outcomes;

Whereas, for some survivors, the loss of positive religious beliefs (e.g., in the goodness of others, in spiritual and faith traditions, in a beneficent God) or the learning of negative religious beliefs (e.g., that bad things happen because of divine sanction or retribution for individual sin or sins) that often accompanies traumatization can be debilitating. Indeed, such loss or learning can fuel the shame, guilt, despair, and hopelessness that undergird suicidality and harmful risk taking, as well as adversely impact the ability and desire to show love to others.

Whereas, insofar as the retention or acquirement of authentic religious beliefs and a salubrious spirituality protects some survivors against suicide or contributes more generally to their process of healing, the traumatized may also come to a point in their recovery when they benefit by giving service back to others, both within and outside their religious community. Finding ways that survivors can serve others or contribute to a higher cause can help them find meaning and purpose in what they have experienced and in their lives. Often the survivors' religious community can facilitate this kind of service, helping them to take down the walls they have put

up to protect themselves.

Whereas, abused children normally do not tell anyone about their abuse; and even when they become adults, they either never tell anyone or wait for years/decades before disclosing their abuse because of the fear of negative responses from others;

Whereas, in United States history, not one President or member of Congress has ever put the plight of adult survivors of child abuse on the national agenda;

Whereas, the media has been complicit in the fact that there has never been a national discussion about the plight of adult survivors of child abuse and neglect; and

Whereas, there is no national database to report accurately on the number of adult survivors of child abuse and neglect in the United States, thus negatively impacting the capacity to provide adequate services for survivors;

Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ not only reaffirms and supports past General Synod resolutions advocating for the welfare of children but also now calls upon the various settings of the UCC to address publicly the healing needs of adult survivors of child abuse, - neglect, and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) by reinforcing the truth that survivors are not to blame for their victimization and that the United Church of Christ welcomes them in experiencing God's love and compassion within its community of radical inclusivity; and

Be It Further Resolved, the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages each Association and congregation of the United Church of Christ to have Authorized Ministers and other leaders of the church understand the importance of the issue this resolution addresses and learn alongside participants of the church that adult survivors are, for the most part, invisible because of the compulsion they have felt since childhood not to self-disclose, as well as to train its participants to respond positively to those who are ready to self-disclose (probably for the first time) through words and deeds that are accepting, validating, non-judgmental, and non-pressuring; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ asks the UCC's National Setting to assist in such educating and training by creating and disseminating a study guide that can be used by churches, Authorized Ministers and other leaders of the church as they seek to minister compassionately and effectively to adult survivors of child abuse, neglect, and Adverse Childhood Experiences; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon the various settings of the UCC to work with state and federal representatives to strengthen the Americans with Disabilities Act so that mental disabilities are accommodated just as much as physical disabilities in the workplace; to encourage state and federal lawmakers to develop a standardized method of reporting child mental, emotional, physical, and sexual abuse and/or child neglect by clinicians, criminal justice organizations, social service providers, healthcare organizations, insurance companies, researchers, and public policy makers; to encourage state and federal lawmakers to eliminate statutes of limitations for child abuse and neglect, as such

statutes infringe upon the procedural due process rights of adult survivors of child abuse and neglect by denying them access to the courts and thereby to legal justice; and to work with the media and state and federal legislators to focus strongly on the need to support adult survivors of child abuse and neglect.

Funding:

The funding for the implementation of the Resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

Implementation:

The Collegium of Officers, in consultation with appropriate ministries or other entities within the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.

9. JOHN DORHAUER – MISSION INTENSIVES

Moderator Artt called on John Dorhauer, President and General Minister of the United Church of Christ to speak about a new mission of the church.

“Over the last few years, the United Church of Christ has engaged in a variety of mission initiatives. When Mission One launched, we worked to end hunger. When Mission 4/1 Earth was birthed, we did what we could to save the planet. In each instance, we worked together to change the world for the better.

Today, we call the United Church of Christ to a new, shared Mission: Three Great Loves. Three Great Loves will seek to engage the entire denomination in a calling to commit fully to living into our missional directive to seek justice for all. Three Great Loves will invite the entire United Church of Christ to pull together and create deep and lasting impact. Three Great Loves will span the biennium between this gathering in Baltimore, and our coming together in Milwaukee two years from now, at which time we will give a full report of the impact we will have created together. We will Be able to tell the story of how the United Church of Christ is working toward a just world for all.

What is Three Great Loves?

It is a call to the love of children, ... to the love of neighbor, ... and to the love of creation.

During the next biennium, we want to discover what an entire denomination committed to Three Great Loves can do to change the world. During the next biennium, we want your setting for ministry to explore new ways to embody commitments to care for the child, the neighbor, and the Earth. During the next Biennium, there will be three significant requests of you: three occasions in which we invite us all to participate as one in a collective effort. Each of the Three Great Loves will have a dedicated call to action with three components: an invitation to give; to act; and to connect.

In the winter of 2017 we will do a denomination-wide drive to provide basic human needs items to shelters housing refugees or the homeless. In the fall of 2018 we will do a denomination-wide

school supplies drive to address inequalities in our education systems.

At Synod in 2019 we will do a sponsored 5K walk to raise money and awareness for the Earth. Throughout the two years, we will be collecting stories of your church's commitments to the love of children, the love of neighbor, the love of creation. Our hope is to be able to document 50% congregational participation by Synod 2019; to collect 3,000 stories from across the denomination about how we are building a Just World for All through love of children, love of neighbor, and love of creation; to collect 100 stories from other covenant partners, like our CHHSM agencies; and we want to name 300 Three Great Loves Heroes, asking you to nominate someone who is working to care for children, for neighbor, and for creation. Share with us your stories of love and the impact they created.

We know that the congregations of the United Church of Christ are already fully engaged in mission that matters. We know that the congregations of the United Church of Christ demonstrate a remarkable love for God's children, for the neighbor in our midst, and for God's creation. What the Three Great Loves campaign asks of us is that we sharpen our awareness of a denomination unified in purpose and commitment and practice the art of narrating the collective impact of our missional undertaking.

Before you leave Synod, please visit the exhibit, UCC Innovates: Through the Lens of Three Great Loves, to sign up to be part of the Three Great Loves online community, leave a story, and see how our church is actively working to create a just world for all. We are a United Church: united in a spirit of openness to all, no matter who they are or where they are on life's journey; united in a common cause to spread the love of Jesus to all the ends of the earth; united in a mission to love all, welcome all, and seek justice for all; united in a call to embody love and build a Just World for All.

Three Great Loves is an invitation to act as one and to deepen our impact by pulling together in love, for justice, and with purpose. As disciples of the Risen Christ, we call ourselves to embody love and incarnate justice. Please join us over the next two years as we focus with clear intent and shared purpose, as we unite in a call to love children, love neighbor, and love creation. Please join us in an effort to tell the world the stories of our great love and the difference it makes. Hey, United Church of Christ. The Holy Spirit is relying on you, and envisions a future in which you matter."

10. THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

Moderator Artt thanked John Dorhauer and invited Raven Rowe to give present a theological reflection.

Raven Rowe asked the delegates to consider the question: "Where is God in the midst of suffering." As people of the church all need to make space to listen to the truth of survivors of trauma, and honor their hope for nurture. In the church is the opportunity to give people the space to come to their own answer regarding trauma and suffering.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Moderator Artt called on Lee Foley, Synod Administrator, for announcements.

Lee Foley greeted the Church and made the following announcements:

1. Sign up for Speakouts with Ken Daniels
2. Birthdays in the house - Sing Happy Birthday
3. Invitation to the mixer at the Hilton regarding "Confirmation Conversation".

11. RECESS

Moderator Artt declared the Sixth Plenary of the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ to be complete at 8:32 p.m. and announced the next plenary would be at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday morning. Worship would begin immediately following tonight's adjournment.

Tuesday morning, July 4, 2015 Seventh Plenary Session

1. CALL TO ORDER AND SPONSOR RECOGNITION

Assistant Moderator Williams called to order the Seventh Plenary of the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ at 8:14 a.m. It began with a word from another partner, The United Church Fund, and Assistant Moderator Williams thanked the United Church Fund for their support.

Assistant Moderator Williams called on the Speakout! delegates at the microphone.

2. SPEAKOUT!

David Mehl (MMS) – Recognition and thanksgiving to Dale and Deborah Parsons, Associate Conference Ministers

Amelia Becker and Emmalisa Belfiore (MASS) – Youth will ask for open and informed dialogue surrounding the adoption resolution before the next General Synod.

Marilyn Pagan-Banks (ILL), Jorge Morales (ILL) Roberto Ochoes (CHM), Carmen Flores-Rance (ILL) Yinessa Romero (CHM) – Thank you for the support of the release of prisoners in Puerto Rico now asking that we work to free Puerto Rico from colonization.

Yinessa Romero (CHM) – Stop by and see the quilt honoring victims killed at the LGBT nightclub, Pulse, in Orlando, FL.

Ernesto Reyes (CA NV, S) – Seeking justice from the body for a just world for the Philippians.

Reuben Cedino (NY) and Art Cribbs (CA NV, S) – War in the Philippians call on support of UCC through WCM to communicate that they are being supported.

Ruth Hansen (WISC) – Thanks for passing resolution on survivors of sexual abuse and invited to Break the Silence resource.

Lese Tuuao (HI) and Hawaii delegation – Recognition of outgoing conference minister and decommissioning ceremony for Charles Buck.

Assistant Moderator Williams declared that additional time would be allowed for the recognition and decommission ceremony.

Jim Antal (MASS) UCC to make non-violent civil disobedience a normative way of discipleship.

3. POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Kent Saladi (CONN) Sudden and tragic death of high school teacher in one of our UCC churches

during Monday's plenary and asked for prayer on behalf of the family, church and conference.

Makela (ILL) Youth from Chicago, Illinois, regarding gun violence and the trauma they experience. Thank the General Synod for their support.

4. POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Assistant Moderator Williams spoke regarding "How Many People Were Shot In Chicago This Weekend: six killed ,53 shot, most under 30, most male, and the youngest was 13. Moderator Williams asked the delegates to pause and asked God's blessing in silence.

5. POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Andrea Nicole Lewis on behalf of the Youth at General Synod thank you for giving the youth an opportunity to have a voice and to speak their thoughts. The Youth would like to get in the wheelbarrow and get in the river. The youth presented a time capsule to the moderator with their hopes and suggestions and ideas for the next General Synod of the United Church of Christ.

6. THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

Assistant Moderator William called Damaris Whittaker for the morning theological reflection.

Damaris Whittaker spoke of the powerful stories being shared and asked the delegates to be in a time of prayer to allow the spirit to become a reality before each vote.

7. CORPORAL PUNISHMENT OF CHILDREN IN HOMES AND INSTITUTIONS

Assistant Moderator Williams called on Jody Betten (MICH) to present the resolution on Corporal Punishing of Children in Homes and Institutions.

Jody Betten indicated that the committee had made changes in the resolution and addressed those and made a motion for the General Synod of the United Church of Christ to pass the Resolution on Corporal Punishment of Children in Homes and Institutions.

Cean James (PSW) thanked Jody Betten for chairing the committee, as well as the other committee members and spoke to the resolution.

Discussion:

Amy Duncan (CA NEV, S) Spoke in favor

No Name No Conference: Asked for Clarification: Does the Resolution cover institutions that are run by the state that are not schools, such as juvenile detention centers.

Jody Betten indicated that the language "child care facilities" is intended to cover all facilities where children are kept.

Timothy White (MASS) Spoke against

John Snyder-Samuelson (PNE) Spoke in favor

Tony Dillon-Hansen (IOWA) made an Amendment to Line 12 adding the words: "in schools, juvenile detention centers and child care facilities"

Dixie Laube (IOWA) Seconded the amendment.

Discussion:

There was no discussion on the amendment.

17-GS-40 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to amend the resolution by adding the words: “in schools, juvenile detention centers and child care facilities” to line 12.
89%; 9%; 2%

Dorian Ortega (CHM) brought a friendly amendment insert “Group Homes and Mental Health Institutions” in lines 12 and 13 as follows: “In schools, juvenile detention centers, group homes and mental health institutions and child care facilities.”

William Wildman (MASS) Seconded

17-GS-41 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted on a friendly amendment to the amendment changing the amendment to read “in schools, juvenile detention centers, group homes and mental health institutions and child care facilities.”
89%; 8%; 3%

Assistant Moderator Williams indicated the Motion with the amendments would now come before the floor for a vote.

17-GS-42 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to adopt the resolution On Corporal Punishment of Children in Homes and Institutions.
91%; 7%; 2%

ON CORPORAL PUNISHMENT OF CHILDREN IN HOMES AND INSTITUTIONS
A Resolution of Witness

Text of the Motion:

Whereas Jesus called for society to honor children for “of such is the Kingdom of God,” Luke 18:16

Whereas Jesus said that harming “the least of these my brethren” was an offense against Him, Matthew 25:40

Whereas the United Church of Christ has approved the National Council of Churches’ Social Creed for the 21st Century, which states that “we honor the dignity of every person” as created in the divine image and therefore “commit ourselves to a culture of peace and freedom that embraces non-violence” and “nurtures character,”

Whereas the United Church of Christ is committed to working for a “world safe for children” and “free from violence,” 95-GS-56 Resolution of Witness

Whereas corporal punishment model’s aggressive behavior as a solution to conflict and sends a message that hitting smaller and weaker people is acceptable,

Whereas corporal punishment is degrading and traumatizing to children and often leads to physical injury,

Whereas corporal punishment may produce short-term compliance but is subsequently less effective, leading frustrated caretakers to inflict more severe forms of punishment,

Whereas some research has associated corporal punishment with chronic depression and increased crime, violence, substance abuse, anxiety and aggression in children and adults,

Whereas children must eventually develop their own conscience and self-discipline, which are fostered by a home environment of respect, trust, love and self-control,

Whereas schools and child-care centers should inspire children to enjoy learning and feel safe and affirmed,

Whereas corporal punishment in schools is disproportionately used on poor children, minorities, children with disabilities, and boys,

Whereas 19 states, including Indiana and Kentucky, allow corporal punishment in schools and child care facilities,

Whereas in the 2013-2014 school year Indiana had 239 cases of corporal punishment and Kentucky had 823,

Whereas the Churches' Network for Non-violence, Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children, United Methodist Church, and Presbyterian Church USA oppose corporal punishment,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls for state and local governments to prohibit corporal punishment in schools, juvenile detention centers, group homes, mental health institutions and child-caring facilities;

Be it further resolved that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon member churches to make resources available on Christian parenting that include alternatives to corporal punishment.

Funding

Funding for the implementation of the resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

Implementation

The Collegium of Officers, in consultation with appropriate ministries or other entities within the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.

8. RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL STAFF

Assistant Moderator Williams invited all of the national staff to begin making their way to the stage and thanked the staff saying: “During the last several days, we have had the opportunity to hear from and thank the members of the Collegium; we have seen other members of the national staff in the exhibit hall, at registration, the General Synod office, during workshops and committees and sponsored meals. But we haven’t had the opportunity to say a formal thank you

for all the work they do on behalf of us all. Many staff have been right here in this convention center with us all week, but there are also many others whose work does not normally bring them to Synod. In addition to the staff in Cleveland, we also have staff in North Carolina, Washington, DC, and New York City, and we value the work all of these folks do on our behalf in the national setting of the church.

Please join together in a formal expression of appreciation to all of them for the work that they do that helps support the work of our local churches, Associations, Conferences, and the General Synod in so many ways.”

9. TOWARD DISABILITY JUSTICE: A CALL TO THE CHURCH AND CHURCHES

Assistant Moderator Williams called on Maria Brace (PNE) to bring the motion on behalf of committee 12, a resolution Toward Disability Justice: A Call to the Church and Churches to Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ.

Maria Brace spoke on behalf of Committee 12 and indicated that there were changes made and reflected in the posted resolution. Maria Brace asked General Synod to adopt the motion Toward Disability Justice: A Call to the Church and Churches and also spoke to the resolution and its amendments.

Discussion:

Matthew Emery (CONN) Spoke in favor

Robert Hempel (ILL) Spoke in favor

Terri McNamara (PSE) Spoke in favor

Felix Villanueva (CA Nev, S) Call the Question

Sebastian Lytwynec Seconded

17-GS-43 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to 97%; 3% 0% end discussion on the motion.

Assistant Moderator Williams indicated the delegates would now vote on the original resolution Toward Disability Justice: A Call to the Church and Churches.

17-GS-44 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to adopt the resolution Toward Disability Justice: A Call to the Church and Churches. 98%; 1%; 1%

TOWARD DISABILITY JUSTICE: A CALL TO THE CHURCH AND CHURCHES
Resolution of Witness

Text of the Motion:

Whereas, the United Church of Christ General Synod Twenty-Five has called upon all settings of the UCC to be “Accessible to All” (GS resolution Called to Wholeness in Christ, 2005);

And, Whereas, the UCC Collegium of officers has already publicly supported a call for the United States of America to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities;

Therefore, be it Resolved, that the Thirty-first General Synod calls the United Church of Christ in all its settings to commit to disability justice;

Let it Be Further Resolved, that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ advocates for the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), and calls upon all other settings of the United Church of Christ to do the same;

Let it Be Further Resolved, that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages the national setting to monitor legislation and court decisions that involve the Americans with Disabilities Act and other legislation that impacts persons with disabilities and use this information to invite other settings of the Church to serve as a prophetic witness to the inclusion of all persons in society;

Let it Be Further Resolved, that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges all settings of the UCC to be a prophetic voice for wage equality and against the injustice of the subminimum wage for persons with disabilities;

Let it Be Further Resolved, that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls for the continued right of persons with disabilities to receive a free and appropriate public education;

Let it Be Further Resolved, that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls on all United Church of Christ outdoor ministry settings to include persons with disabilities in mainstreamed age appropriate programs and welcome persons with disabilities in all outdoor ministry settings;

Let it Be Further Resolved, that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges all UCC settings to be advocates for affordable and equal health care insurance without prejudice to preexisting conditions inclusive of mental health;

Let it Be Further Resolved, that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls on all settings of the UCC to actively advocate in support of Medicaid funding to ensure independence and lifelines for persons with disabilities;

Let it Be Further Resolved, that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ invites all UCC settings to develop awareness of health disparities experienced by persons with disabilities who may not be offered or made eligible for organ transplant, or other life sustaining treatment, because they live with disabilities;

Let it Be Further Resolved, that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges the national setting, and all other UCC settings, to develop an active response to the intersectionality of race and disability in relation to police brutality and death by police force, and further calls upon local congregations and seminaries to be sources of education about disability/mental health awareness and places where police can interact and gain experience with persons with disabilities in safe non-threatening settings;

Let it Be Finally Resolved, that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages UCC Disaster Ministries to include the need for disaster preparedness among persons with disabilities in their disaster response plans and that disaster ministry teams in all settings of the Church engage persons with disabilities to develop emergency preparedness plans.

Funding:

The funding for the implementation of the Resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

Implementation:

The UCC Collegium of officers in consultation with the UCCDM Board of Directors, and other appropriate ministries will determine the implementing body.

10. **A MORE JUST ECONOMY: \$15 MINIMUM WAGE, LIVING WAGES AND JOB CREATION.**

Assistant Moderator Williams called on Robert Thompson (SOC) to bring the resolution A More Just Economy: \$15 Minimum Wage, Living Wages and Job Creation before General Synod.

Robert Thompson moved the adoption of the resolution A More Just Economy: \$15 Minimum Wage, Living Wages and Job Creation after indicating the changes that had been made and then spoke to the motion.

Assistant Moderator Williams indicated that this resolution was another one of the resolutions that the youth would be addressing and asked the delegates to allow the youth to speak without objection.

17-GS-45 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to allow the youth to speak without objection.

Four Youth from the Central Atlantic Conference shared their discussions about the resolution and spoke in favor of the resolution.

Discussion:

Cassandra Granada (NY) Spoke in Favor

11. POINT OF CLARIFICATION

Thomas Mitchell (SE) It is it the intent of the committee to tie minimum wage increase to the cost of living. Answer: The committee was intentional about not being specific about the details in order for the minimum wage to be continually addressed.

Mary Kay Schuenenman (VT) Spoke against

Marilyn Kendrix (CONN) Spoke in favor

Emily Rees (OHIO) Spoke against

Silas Tockey (ILL) Spoke in favor

Timothy White (MASS) Spoke in favor

George Miller (FL) Spoke against

John Legary (ILL) Spoke in favor

Scott Meyer (IOWA) Spoke Against

2.Laura Fitzpatrick Nager (CONN) Spoke in Favor

Peggy Ludlow (MINN) Call the Question

Mark Kuether (MINN) Second

17-GS-46 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to 83%; 26%; 4% end discussion on the motion.

Assistant Moderator Williams indicated the delegates would now vote on the original resolution A More Just Economy: \$15 Minimum Wage, Living Wages and Job Creation.

17-GS-47 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to 75%; 22%; 3% adopt the resolution A More Just Economy: \$15 Minimum Wages and Job Creation.

A MORE JUST ECONOMY: \$15 MINIMUM WAGE, LIVING WAGES AND JOB CREATION

A Resolution of Witness

Text of the Motion:

Whereas, scripture calls God’s people care “for the widow, the orphan, and the alien living among you” (Deuteronomy 24:17-21); and

Whereas, Scripture declares that “God is a God of Justice” (Isaiah 30:18) and we believe that God's grace and judgment are active in all life; and

Whereas, we believe that God requires us to act for and with justice, mercy, and humility before God (Micah 6:8); and

Whereas, Jesus called disciples to “care for the least” among them (Matthew 25:31–46) and;

Whereas, the United States, like all nations, is blessed with an abundance of God’s resources, more than enough for all;

Whereas, the United States is an extremely wealthy country;

Whereas, God’s resources are not being equitably shared;

Whereas, God’s call to love our neighbors compels us to work for an economy where all jobs pay a living wage and everyone who wants a job has one;

Whereas, the federal minimum wage is set at \$7.25 an hour, unchanged since 2009, and the tipped minimum wage is \$2.13 an hour;

Whereas, our neighbors who work in low-wage jobs would welcome our support for their struggles for fair wages and better working conditions;

Whereas, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Resources 2015 guidelines for a family of four living in poverty is a household income of \$24,250; and

Whereas, wages of \$15 per hour for a 40-hour workweek constitute an annual wage of \$32,000 which only begins to address the economic injustice of minimum annual wages that are below federal poverty guidelines; and

Whereas, we believe every worker’s right to form and join a labor union must be protected;

Whereas, our international trade and investment laws must be fair;

Whereas, millions of people want and need a job but cannot find one; and

Whereas, in 2005 General Synod XXV approved a resolution “For the Common Good” calling all settings of the United Church of Christ to “do justice and promote the common good by working actively to ensure full employment, dignity on the job, living wages, and sufficient income for everyone;” and

Whereas, General Synods have repeatedly called for full employment including in 1977 with the affirmation of “the God-given right of all persons to useful and remunerative work” and called on “federal, state, and local governments together with industry, business, labor and the unemployed to formulate and implement policies and programs to achieve full employment;”

Therefore, be it Resolved that, We the delegates to the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ seeks a just economy where all job pay a living wage and everyone who wants a job has one, and

Call on each member church of the United Church of Christ to examine its compensation of part-time and full-time staff to assure that each is paid at least \$15/hour or plan to reach, if possible, that minimum compensation by 2019;

Call on all settings of the United Church of Christ to support workers' efforts for better wages and working conditions and to participate in community efforts that seek to repair America's economic and social divisions and build a moral economy; and

Call on all settings of the United Church of Christ to advocate among local, state, and federal policy makers:

-to raise the minimum wage to \$15/hour as soon as possible and ensure the minimum wage continues to rise so that all jobs pay a living wage,

- to strengthen the right of workers to form and join labor unions, to protect this right more vigorously, and to increase penalties for violations,

-to enact fair international trade and investment agreements that protect workers, consumers, small firms, the environment, democratic process, and national sovereignty in the USA and in our trading-partner nations, and

-to create jobs and address society's unmet needs, such as repairing and replacing crumbling infrastructure and providing affordable childcare and early childhood education.

calls on all settings of the United Church of Christ to advocate with Congress, and as appropriate, with state legislators and policymakers in other localities to ensure living wages for all workers by:

- raising the minimum wage, eliminating the separate tipped minimum wage and ensuring the minimum wage continues to rise each year so that all jobs pay a living wage;
- strengthening the right of workers to form and join labor unions, protecting these rights more vigorously, and increasing penalties for violations; and
- enacting fair international trade and investment agreements that will protect workers, consumers, small firms, the environment, democratic processes, and national sovereignty in the U.S. and in our trading-partner nations.

Be it further resolved the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls on all settings of the United Church of Christ to support workers' efforts for better wages and working conditions and to participate in community efforts that seek to repair our economic and social divisions and build a moral economy;

Be it further resolved that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ, recognizing that everyone who wants a job should have one, calls on all settings of the United Church of Christ to advocate with Congress and policymakers at all levels to create jobs and address our society's unmet needs by, for example, repairing and replacing our crumbling infrastructure and providing affordable childcare and early-childhood education.

Funding

The funding for the implementation of the Resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

Implementation

The Collegium of Officers, in consultation with appropriate ministries or other entities within the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.

12. THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION:

Assistant Moderator Williams invited Damaris Whittaker to give a final Theological Reflection.

Damaris Whittaker indicated that there has been lots of action, lots of conversation, but now it is time to get out of the “coop” to be faithful to the things decided at General Synod.

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Assistant Moderator Williams called on Lee Foley for the announcements

Lee Foley greeted the Church and made the following announcements:

1. Exhibit Hall Will Close at noon.
2. Youth Will be leaving at noon
3. Bags are being donated to Africa
4. Return at 1:30, delegates will sit at the bar of the house. The clickers will be collected.
5. Return delegate signs to head ushers

14. RECESS

Assistant Moderator Williams declared the seventh plenary in recess at 10:09 a.m., and indicated that the eighth plenary would begin at 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday Afternoon, July 4, 2017 Eighth Plenary Session

1. CALL TO ORDER

Moderator Artt called the Final Plenary of the Thirty-first General Synod to order at 2:00 p.m and invited the delegates to participate in the final speakout.

2. SPEAKOUTS!

Moderator Artt called upon the following SpeakOut Participants:

Ken Evitts (NEB) Scott Jones (NEB) Spoke on Open and Affirming
Ellen Rohan Ball (MASS) and Amelia Nugent (MASS)
Charron Stoddart (CONN) During Gun Violence the delegates failed a young person
Jim O’Brian (CAC) Remind us that we are in an addictive society
Mark Longhurst (MASS) and Matt Carriker (MASS) Create space for contemplative worship at Synod

Brad Jagger (OHIO) Interface Silver Beach

Ruth Moerdyke (MICH) Reminder of U.S. Military brutality and wastefulness

Ivy Tillman (MASS) Begin to use non-gender terms

Alan Johnson (UCCMH) Mental Health issues

Barbara Libby (RI) Recognized the Signers for the hearing impaired.

Ron Patterson (PNW) Shaping our Future Campaign which has raised 2.5 million dollars.

Moderator Artt thanked all Speakout! participants for their contributions and thanked Ken Daniel for the outstanding work as the Speakout! Coordinator during this General Synod.

3. THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

Moderator Artt called on Raven Rowe to bring the afternoon Theological Reflection.

Raven Rowe reminded the church to be the church and to be themselves.

4. THANK YOU/RECOGNITION OF LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE

Moderator Artt called on Lee Foley to bring a special words of thanks.

Lee Foley asked General Synod to welcome and thank some of the nearly 250 members of the Central Atlantic Conference who have volunteered to make this Synod the success it has been. Thank the folks who helped with everything from registration to child care, the “Appassadors” who have helped us get use to the app, and those who major support with the Educational Intensives and the Synod Service Projects and so much more.

Lee Foley invited the volunteers of the Local Arrangements Committee of the Central Atlantic Conference to the stage and they were given huge round of applause.

Lee Foley gave special mention and thanked the leaders of the Local Arrangements Committee, Jill White, Bob Ziegler, and Barbara Kamara who put in countless hours each week since that first meeting two years ago.

Lee Foley also expressed appreciation for tremendous help received from the folks who helped with youth program run by the Barbara Kershner Daniel who has agreed to join the Synod volunteer staff on an every-Synod basis running the Youth Program.

5. INVITATION TO THE THIRTY-SECOND GENERAL SYNOD

Moderator Artt stated that in two years, the Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ will convene in the City of Milwaukee, Wisconsin and that the Wisconsin Conference will host the gathering. Moderator Artt called on Kerri Parker and Franz Rigert to extend the invitation.

Hal Penny of the Rocky Mountain Conference thanked Sue Artt, Conference Minister, and presented her with a gift.

6. INSTALLATION OF NEW MODERATOR/ASSISTANT MODERATOR

Moderator Artt stated that as the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ

comes to an end, it is time to pause to recognize and affirm the ministry of those elected to lead the United Church of Christ. Dale Bonds was invited forward to install the Moderator Norman Williams and Assistant Moderator Penny Lowes.

7. FINAL THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

Moderator Artt invited Raven Rowe for the final theological reflection.

Raven Rowe talked about differing from the normal because God is working with us. In order to be relevant, it is necessary to embrace children, youth, adults and offer all a space and to affirm “all our welcome”.

8. POINT OF PRIVILEGE

Moderator Artt took a few moments to read some of the notes from the Youth.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Moderator Artt called on Lee Foley for the final announcements.

Lee Foley greeted the Church and made the following announcements:

1. Thank you to Staff
2. Turn in Your Clickers

10. ADJOURNMENT

Moderator Artt expressed thanks and appreciation for everyone’s participation and commitment to the denomination and the Church of Jesus Christ. Frank Bolden, Chair of the Board, was called for the final motion.

Frank Bolden moved the adjournment of the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ at the conclusion of the afternoon worship service.

17-GS-48 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to adjourn at the conclusion of the afternoon worship service.

Moderator Artt gaveled the final business session of the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ to a close.

11. WORSHIP

LIST OF VOTING DELEGATES

California-Nevada-N

Elizabeth Armstrong
Barbara Colliandar
Emma Fujii
Diane Johnson
Davena Jones
Jennifer Kawaguchi
Mary Kelly
Jackie Manley
Casey Ream
Daniel Ross-Jones

California-Nevada-S

Heather Branton
Lorraine Ceniceros
Jessica Chapman
Kara Clay
Hannah Cranbury
Amy Duncan
Cynthia “Wally” Hoeger
Sebastian Lytwynec
Matthew Redrich
Foai Tanuvasa
Paul Tellstrom

Calvin Synod

Jill Pongracz Murrell
Viktor Toth

Central Atlantic

Judy Bowman
Leondra Burchall
Maria Crompton
Debra Duke
Helen Hinkson
Yvonne Hinkson
Beverly Lewis
Robin Lewis
Karen Lovelace
Linda Matthias
Kevin Munroe
Brian Murray
Elsie-Marie Niiler

Central Atlantic (cont.)

Taylor Ramage
Derek Ritenour
John Rogers
Daniel Thoren
Steve Wood

Central Pacific

Catherine Alder
Bill Davis
Diane Dulin
Tara Wilkins

Connecticut

Pam Arifian
Andrew Bilger
Xavier Blyden
Larkin Brown
Jonathan Chapman
Carly Chervenak
Douglas Clark
Susan Clark
Beatrice Dang
Tyra DeBoise
Judy Dolphin
Matthew Emery
Caryne Eskridge
Bridget Fidler
Laura Fitzpatrick-Nager
Paul Fontanez
Catherine Gingras
Allyson Glass
Catriona Grant
Maxwell Grant
Karen Halac
Persephone Hall
Bill Hawley
Bob Inderbitzen
Marilyn Kendrix
Sara Krhla
La Vette LaBoy
Brittany LaFleur
Katrina Manzi

Connecticut (cont.)

Matthew McCaffrey
Virginia McDaniel
Kaeley McEvoy
Diane Monti-Catania
Elliott Munn
Rhonda Myers
Kari Nicewander
Micki Nunn-Miller
Janet Parker
Allie Perry
Mary Ann Purtill
Hayley Richards
Sara Rossigg
Bryn Smallwood-Garcia
Charron Stoddart
Ellie Strathdee
Virginia Wickersham
Jael Williams
David Yoshida

Florida

Deborah Chea
Haley Coet
Bill Detore
Robyn Firth
Elizabeth LeSueur
George Miller
Marcelino Rivera
Kathy Rooke
Lorin Shepard
Jean Simpson
Virginia Somerville
Marty Synnott
Dawson Taylor
Rachel Thompson
Philip Toal

Hawaii

Glenn Frazier
Isaiah Kaauwai
Haleaka Martin
Diane Meyer

Hawaii (cont.)

Pualani Muraki
 Linda Petrucelli
 Jayne Ryan Kuroiwa
 Suzanne Smith
 Kathy Tanaka
 Jashua Weible
 Laura Young

Illinois

Beth Babbit Borst
 Patricia Bastian
 Katherine Beckett
 Selena Blackwell
 Jana Chwalisz
 Madeline Cihak
 Gloria Cox
 Roger Dart
 Catherine Erwin
 Carmen Flores-Rance
 Joycelin Fowler
 Justin Graves
 Denise Grossman
 Robert Hempel
 Charlene Hill
 Carole Hoke
 Kathy Hummel
 Muriel Jahn
 Katelyn Karstensen
 Pamela Keckler
 John Kendall
 Kyle King
 Lance Lackore
 Sue Ladd
 Carol Lange
 Michael Linder
 Susan Lock
 Ann McCarthy
 William McCarthy
 Lawrence McCure
 Amanda McEvilly
 Ted Michalsen
 Maya Minter

Illinois (cont.)

Mary Newcomb
 John Omerod
 Marilyn Pagan-Banks
 Ernest Potter
 Jon Prain
 Makayla Purvis
 Amy Rovell-Rixx
 Franshonn Salter
 Dianne Sherman
 Ruth Stewart
 Anthony Sullivan, Jr.
 Silas Tockey
 MariBeth Welch
 Kim Whisler-Vasko
 Kimberly Wood
 Charlee Wordlaw Porter
 Frank Zavaski

Illinois South

Krstian Avise-Rouse
 Breanne Beisiegel
 Katie Jo Bielke
 Timothy Darmour-Paul
 Christye Eckert
 Karen Gaines
 Brad Grotefendt
 Carl Kasten
 Brett Palmer
 Carolyn Palmer
 Norma Patterson
 John Pawloski
 Patrick Poole
 David Shanks
 Verna Anna Steinkamp

Indiana-Kentucky

Tyler Betustak
 Judith Doll
 Jamesetta Ferguson
 Linda Frishe-Mouri
 Sara Frishe-Mouri Hannigan
 James (JT) Hills

Indiana-Kentucky (cont.)

Dena Holland-Neal
 Linda Kowatch
 Linda Kuester
 Susan O'Shaughnessy
 Karen Pepmeier
 B. Lee Reberger
 Nicholas Reynolds
 Lori Schroeder
 Susan Sirmic
 Melinda Sterrett
 Walter Ziebell

Iowa

Allison Acklie
 Carolyn Boogerd
 Mary Brady
 Forrest Cornelius
 Tony Dillon-Hansen
 Ryan Dowell Baum
 Robert Fread
 Allen Ghoske
 Mary Beth Hartenstein
 Sue Johannesen
 Dixie Laube
 John Lof
 Kristy May
 Alison McHenry
 Diana McHenry
 Scott Meyer
 Don Morgan
 William Painter
 Rich Pleva
 Laura Renault
 Hannah Ryan

Kansas Oklahoma

Ruth Bradshaw
 Erik Kendall
 Emily Rix
 Aaron Roberts
 Michael Vollbrecht
 Gina Woods

Maine

Lee Ann Betz
 Josh Fitterling
 Linette George
 Anne Hodgman
 Tim LeConey
 Herb Oliver
 Geoff Parker
 Dylan Provencher
 Susan Reisert
 Laurel Robinson
 Rich Roedner
 Lucy Simonds

Massachusetts

Emmanuel Akyeampong
 Ellen Rohan Ball
 Angie Ballou
 Amelia Becker
 Emmalisa Belfiore
 Megan Berkowitz
 Bill Bray
 Theo Brierley
 Robert Brown
 Matt Carriker
 Martha Crawford
 Daniel Dibble
 Bonnie Fleming
 Fran Graveson
 Alford Green
 Laura Gronberg
 Jonathan Guest
 Philomena Hare
 Wallace Hurd
 Anne-Marie Illsley
 Martha Kaselis
 Jim Kelly
 David King
 Lucy Kogut
 Patty Kogut
 Ken Landin
 Amanda Lee
 Mark Longhurst

Massachusetts (cont.)

Marisa Brown Ludwig
 Jenn Macy
 Linda Mesler
 Louis Mitchell
 Charles Morkin
 Jonathan New
 Amelia Nugent
 Donald Remick
 Esther Rendon-Thompson
 John Sharland
 James Tilbe
 Ivy Tillman
 Tina Walker-Morin
 Deborah Washington
 Todd Weir
 John White
 Timothy White
 William Wildman

Michigan

Jody Betten
 Michelle Brown
 Anthony Carter
 Mamie Cokley
 Ethan Drutchas
 David Engel
 Judith Furman
 Dennis Green
 Margaret Harner
 Verona Ivory
 Dennis Jackson
 Sara Keinath
 Ember Kelley
 Paul Lance
 Patricia Leahy
 Josh Lee
 Ruth Moerdyk
 Hannah Robinson
 Ellen Sauer
 Howard Tejchma

Minnesota

Jim Barbour
 Janet Bartz
 Howard Bell
 Beth Donaldson
 Zachary Dyar
 Kathy Gibson Christensen
 Desiree Gold
 Bridget Haefner
 Jacob Kanake
 Becky Kruse
 Zoe Kuester
 Mark Keuther
 Peggy Ludlow
 Zac Norenberg
 Jeff Palmer
 Katie Vantries
 Peter Wagner
 Janet White
 Mark Young

Missouri Mid-South

Karen Aikens
 Barbara Biedenstein
 Mike Bone
 Paula DeSeure
 Garrett Fiegenbaum
 Coleen Fikes
 James Fuller
 Meredith Jackson
 Sue Leary
 David Mehl
 Laura Mignerone
 Mark Miller
 Liz Pace
 Chase Peoples
 Margaret Philip
 Ula Sao
 Ian Sheridan
 Leslie Strong
 Margaret Strong
 Sonya Vann

Montana-N. Wyoming

Sophia Heilman
Danielle Rogers
Rick Thompson

Nebraska

Jerry Cassiday
Ken Evitts
Steve Gerdes
Karen Hemmerling
Barb Johnson
Scott Jones
Dylan Kitchen
Angela Leeper
Sara Leeper
Jessica Palys
Les Parmenter

New Hampshire

Donald Bliss
Eliza Buchakjian-Tweedy
Gerri Cannon
Sanjay Cherian
Ruth Gallot
Austin Gehring
Lizbeth Good
Robert Grabill
Barry Jacobson
Wayne Martin
Lily Nutt
Glenn Vodra
Robert Vodra

New York

Vanessa Adams
Jennifer Ashton
Reginald Brantley
Reuben Cedino
Rachel Ditch
Patricia Edwards
Ralph English
Christopher Foote
Kate Forer

New York (cont.)

Martha Gallagher
Gary Gossel
Cassandra Granados
Lennox Grant
Christine Hopkins
Geraldine Howard
Jeremy Lopez
Donna Roll
Ian Rottenberg
Donna Schaper
Henry Simmons
Jacob Stewart
Cheryl Thomas
Shaun Whitehead
Janet Wright

Northern Plains

Faith Kirchdorfer
Grace Murray

Ohio

Kay Albright
Elaine Bast
Julia Bertalan
Jamie Binegar
Anthony Brookhart
Martin Buck
Samuel Buehrer
Anna Court
Doug Court
John Cramton
Avery Danage
Jeff Davis
Kimberly Deitrick
Jonathan Dodson
Kendall Duncan
Elizabeth Fiene
Kendra Fullen
Martin Gillies
Cathy Green
Don Hill
Ellie Hocker

Ohio (cont.)

Katie Jackson
Brad Jagger
Leila Jindra
Colin Jones
Daniel Kirk
Breanna Kramer
Jeneen Kubala
Caroline Kutschbach
AJ Lacefield
Catherine Lawrence
Kristen Leverton
Cheryl Lindsay
Alex Lovett
Gary Lovett
Shawnthea Monroe
Norman Moxley
James Nelson
Don Nichols
Sharon Nichols
MK O'Haver
David Orr
Nanette Pitt
Mindy Quellhorst
Emily Rees
Laureen Roe
Jeff Roeger
Jared Ruari
Gaye Santoro
Naomi Celeste Schulz
Pat Shatzer
Sheresa Simpson-Rice
Ryan Taylor-Byers
Valerie Walker
Michelle Wilkey
Terry Williams
LaPearl Logan Winfrey
Sam Wyatt

Pacific Northwest

Wendy Blight
Peter Ilgenfritz
Jill Komura

Pacific Northwest (cont.)

Nathaniel Mahlberg
 Emma Ritchie
 Kyna Shilling

Penn Central

Laura Bair
 Julia Beall
 Andrew Boyer
 Kay Boyer
 Craig Ellis
 Rachel Emmons
 Uble Frost
 Cindy Garis
 Carolyn Herman
 Tom Hocking
 Julie Holm
 Kervin Hoover
 Sherri Keiter-Reed
 Shirley Knox
 Phil Landers
 William Lochstet
 Les Loucks
 Dale Mease
 Jean Pierce
 John Pierce
 Charlotte Pinette
 MaryBeth Schmotzer
 Chris Schwab
 Janis Taylor
 Jerry Thomason
 Karen Umberger
 Fred Young

Penn Northeast

Jameson Baxter
 Douglas Brace
 Maria Brace
 Scott Brooks-Cope
 Candi Cain-Borgman
 Taylor Cope
 Kathryn Foster
 Michelle Funk

Penn Northeast (cont.)

Phyllis Hamm
 Barbara Hanks
 Sharon Harfman
 Virginia Heimer
 Dalice Hess
 Douglas Lander
 Joanne Marchetto
 Dale Sattizahn
 Virginia Schlegel
 Lee Schleicher
 Tori Schoenberger
 John Snyder-Samuelson
 Bob Stevens
 Rebekah Thomas
 Mia White
 John Zangari

Penn West

Marjorie Deaner
 Nathan Hart
 Joy Johnson
 Ryan Lucas
 Jill Marie
 David Mears
 Chelsea Neatrou
 Laddie Ohl
 Cheryl Petrini

Pennsylvania SE

Lisa Baxter
 Angelee Benner-Smith
 Catherine Brunner
 Kevin Duffy-Guy
 Eric Ebner
 Mary Lou Eckels
 Janis Edwards
 Lee Ferrier
 Charlotte Gosselink
 Linda Hammond
 Barbara Hughes
 Zachary Jackson
 Cean James

Pennsylvania SE (cont.)

Mark Johnson
 Kim Kendrick
 Edward Livingston
 Terri McNamara
 Les Milliner
 Bonnie Moore
 Pamela Morris
 Nicholas Shuman
 Dawn Sowash
 Suzanne Spaulding
 Jason Stump
 Patricia Thomas
 Roger Ulrich
 Terry Weirback
 Lenette Wells
 Helen Wheeler
 Tammie Wisniewski
 Michelle Witmyer

Rhode Island

Alyssa Browning-Gray
 Wayne Gage
 Cleo Graham
 Patricia Safstrom

Rocky Mountain

David Bahr
 David Bristow
 Hal Chorpenning
 Pat Gamble-Hovey
 Jan Hepp
 Martha Jones
 Rachel Oliver
 John Rostykus
 Sara Schneider

South Central

Alison Bess
 Darnell Fennell
 Andrew Greenhaw
 Gregory Johnson
 Ray Jordan

South Central (cont.)

Matthew Lundy
 Marianne Muehr
 Kelly Napier
 Jasmine Quinerly

South Dakota

Tony Buffalo
 LuCinda Haak
 Alexander Haines
 Brody Huwer
 Pam Koller
 Keith Kraft
 Katherine Peterson

Southeast

Heather Bardole
 Lacey Brown
 Larry Gipson
 Julius Jessup Peterson
 Matthew Lewellyn-Otten
 Thomas Mitchell
 Carrole Moss
 Charmaine Penn Johnson

Southern

David Adams
 Nancy Allison
 Chantelle Armstead
 Samuel Armstead
 Patrick Campbell
 Crystal Corbett
 Lisa Dlubala
 Richard Edens
 Wayne Gardner
 Lisa Gaul
 Jimmy Gibbs
 Brenda James
 Laura Madison
 Ervin Milton
 Ernestine Purnell
 Micah Royal
 Cassandra Spivey

Southern (cont.)

Barbara Sutton
 Bob Thompson
 Sara Wilcox
 Tyler Williams

Southwest

Frank Fox
 Jean-Marie Huisjen
 Sue Joiner
 Scott Rowe
 Pamela Shepherd

Vermont

Micah Heaney
 Marisa Laviola
 Mary Kay Schueneman
 Devon Thomas
 Jim Thomas
 Jeffrey Tuper-Giles
 John Weatherhogg
 Jeanne Zammataro

Wisconsin

Sara Athorp
 Colie Bettavia
 Laura Borth
 Ruth Costello
 Eugene Detert
 Nita Fitzgerald
 Andrea Gerlach
 Julie Goranson
 Christopher Guy
 Gail Holmes
 Mary Jane Huber
 Jeremy Hylen
 James Iliff
 Rebecca Johnston
 Kaylene Kloehn
 Randall Koppenhaver
 Madeline Loss
 David McDonald
 Gabriel McKelvey

Wisconsin (cont.)

Mackenzie Merriman
 Kevin Mundell
 John Parkyn
 Tim Perkins
 Anna Pundt
 Donald Quigley
 Leslie Schenk
 Ruth Schmidt
 Ken Snart
 Daniel Stark
 John Tyler
 Karin Wells
 Adam Westrich

HUGS GROUP**CAIM**

Louie Blue Coat
 Lexi Faye
 Cecelia Kraus

CHM

Roberto Ochoa
 Dorian Ortega
 Yinessa Romero
 Nancy Rosas

COALITION

Ann Kansfield
 Mak Kneebone
 Phil Porter
 Kevin Tindell

MRSEJ

Ruth Harvey
 Luther Holland
 Darek McCullers
 Sylvia McDonald
 Kaufman

PAAM

Carlos Floresca
Richard Hom
Melody Niere
Jacob Thomas

UBC

Deborah Dee Brayton
Zillah Jackson Wesley
Zillah F. Wesley

UCCDM

Paul Fogle
Nadyne Guzman
Kelli Parrish Lucas
Danielle Rochford

USM

Tauoa Head
Misi Tagaloa
Sepulona Tanuvasa
Liki Tiatia

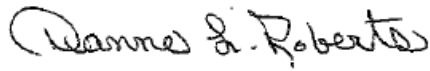
UCC BOARD

Maritza Angulo de
Gonzalez
Sue Artt
Caroline Belsom
Traci Blackmon
Brian Bodager
Frank Bolden
Dale Bonds
Geoffrey Brace
Carrie Call
Edward Davis
Mike Denton
John Dorhauer
Robert Frieberg
David Gaewski
Gilberto Garcia Rodriguez
Darrell Goodwin
Carla Gregg-Kearns
Donald Hart

UCC BOARD (cont.)

Richard Harter
Emily Heath
Alice Hunt
Wesley Hurt
Noah Jenson Tabor
Nesa Joseph
James Maki
Douglas McClelland
Brittini Melius
Yesenia Menendez-
Sanchez
Keith Mills
James Moos
Jorge Morales
David Nelson
Kevin Omi
Kevin Peterson
Thea Racelis
Michael Readinger
Inez Smith Reid
Ernesto Reyes
Dwayne Royster
Gary Schulte
Carol Shipley
William Tanner
Norman Williams
Frances Wong
Yvette-Michelle Wynn

Respectfully submitted,



Dianne Roberts, Recorder



Joyce Bathke, Recorder

Caroline Belsom – Editing Proofreader
Carolyne Call – Editing Proofreader
Bob Frieberg – Editing Proofreader
Carol Shipley – Editing Proofreader
Yvette Wynn – Editing Proofreader

Denise Pittman – Associate for Governance and General Synod Administration
Lee Foley – Administrator of General Synod
Valerie Smith – Associate Administrator of General Synod

Adopted and approved by the United Church of Christ Board of Directors of the General Synod
of the United Church of Christ on October 19, 2017

The Minutes of the General Synods of the United Church of Christ are available online at <http://ucc.org>
and are held in perpetuity by the Archivist of the United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue,
Cleveland, Ohio 44115.

APPENDIX A

REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

I am Fred Young from the Penn Central Conference representing the Credentials Committee for this General Synod and presenting on behalf of Krysten Thomas from the Central Atlantic Conference who serves as Credentials Committee Chair.

The Credentials Committee is composed of ten delegates, half of whom are in the Class of 2017 and the other half of whom are in the Class of 2019. The role of the Credentials Committee is to monitor the composition of the conference delegations to the General Synod, for compliance with the diversity guidelines established by the UCC in the UCC Constitution and Bylaws. Jan Gomoll, Associate for Major Events and Board Administration of the UCC Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, graciously serves as staff to the committee.

In recent months, the Credentials Committee met twice, via conference call. In the first meeting, the committee reviewed the preliminary delegation data from the General Synod Registrar and unanimously acknowledged the delegations, which were found to fall short of the diversity guidelines in the UCC Constitution and Bylaws. Once those delegations were acknowledged, letters with particular recommendations for diversity improvements were distributed appropriately. Each letter was facilitated by Ms. Gomoll and signed by Ms. Thomas. In the second meeting, which took place after conference registrations had been fully finalized, the committee reviewed the final delegation data from the General Synod Registrar and agreed to recommend that the Delegation-As-A-Whole be declared in compliance. That recommendation was made due to the overall age, gender, race and ecclesiastical standing makeup of the conference delegations, which together, adhered to the before mentioned guidelines.

Specifically, the Credentials Committee is pleased to report that the Delegation-As-A-Whole is in compliance with UCC Bylaw 189, which pertains to the makeup of conference delegations at General Synod, as a result of the following: (1) The Delegation-As-A-Whole is comprised of at least fifty percent lay persons. (2) The Delegation-As-A-Whole reflects the UCC's commitment to affirmative action with representation from different racial and ethnic backgrounds. (3) The Delegation-As-A-Whole is reflective of gender equality. (4) The Delegation-As-A-Whole is comprised of approximately twenty percent youth and young adults.

While the total number of delegates present at the current General Synod falls short of the 675 person minimum, the full amount of delegate positions were allotted by the national church. There were officially 647 General Synod delegates registered at the time of the committee's final review. Moreover, while there are individual conferences that fell short of specific diversity thresholds, those with room for improvement were contacted by the Credentials Committee, advised in that regard and all made a good faith effort to become compliant.

Therefore, on behalf of myself, Ms. Thomas and the Credentials Committee, it gives me great privilege to declare the Delegation-As-A-Whole in compliance at the 2017 General Synod.

APPENDIX B

SECOND REPORT OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST BOARD OF DIRECTORS

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

IT WAS VOTED:
17-06-UCCB-01 to approve the Agenda.

APPROVAL OF MARCH, 2017 MINUTES

IT WAS VOTED:
17-06-UCCB-02 to approve the March 2017 Minutes.

GRANT VOICE WITHOUT VOTE

IT WAS VOTED:
17-06-UCCB-03 to grant Voice without Vote to Staff and Others Advising the UCC Board of Directors.

ELECTION OF AISHIA A. BROWN TO THE UCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

IT WAS VOTED:
17-06-UCCB-05 to elect Aishia A. Brown to the United Church of Christ Board of Directors as an At-Large member, filling a vacancy in the class of 2019.

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST BOARD OF DIRECTORS, SITTING AS THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE OF THE THIRTY-FIRST GENERAL SYNOD.

GRANT VOICE WITHOUT VOTE

IT WAS VOTED:
17-06-UCCB-06 to grant Voice without Vote to Resource Persons to the General Synod:

SYNOD COMMITTEE LIAISON APPOINTMENTS

IT WAS VOTED:
17-06-UCCB-08 to accept notice of the Synod Committee Liaison Appointments:

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON DISPOSITION

IT WAS VOTED:
17-06-UCCB-09 to accept the report of the Committee on Disposition

APPROVE THIRTY-FIRST GENERAL SYNOD AGENDA

IT WAS VOTED:

17-06-UCCB-10 to approve the Final Thirty-first General Synod Agenda

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Robert – Recorder
June 29, 2017

APPENDIX C

THE FIRST REPORT OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO THE THIRTY-FIRST GENERAL SYNOD

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2015 MINUTES

It was VOTED:

15-10-EXCOMM-01 to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2015 minutes with the noted changes to include the conversation relating to gender rooming.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was VOTED:

15-10-EXCOMM-03 to move into Executive Session with the following staff present: Mr. Clark, Ms. Farrow, Mr. Foley, Ms. Kimmel and Ms. Lewis.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was VOTED:

15-10-UCCB-01 to approve the recommended Agenda.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

It was VOTED:

15-10-UCCB-02 to approve the recommended Consent Agenda with the addition of Mr. Corey Larson to those with Voice Without Vote.

- a- Grant Voice Without Vote to staff and others making presentation to the Board of Directors
- b- Approval of the Minutes of the Thirtieth General Synod
- c- receive the Minutes of the September 9, 2015 meeting of the Executive Committee
- d- establish a Special Committee on Development and Consent to the Nominations of Non-Directors to the Special Committee on Development
- e- Grant Voice Without Vote to Non-Director Members of the Special Committee on Development: Ms. Penny Lowes, Mr. Ron Patterson, Ms. Shari Prestemon, Ms. Sue Wimer
- f- approval of the Clergy Housing Allowance
- g- approval of Supplementation of Small Annuities

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JUNE 25, 2015 BOARD MEETING

It was VOTED:

15-10 UCCB-03 to approve the June 25, 2015 United Church of Christ Board of Directors Minutes with the noted correction of Kevin Omi's name.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was VOTED:

15-10 UCCB-04 to move into Executive Session.

OPEN SESSION

It was VOTED:

15-10 UCCB-05 to end Executive Session.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was VOTED:

16-03-UCCB-01 to approve the recommended Agenda.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

It was VOTED:

16-03-UCCB-02 to approve the Consent Agenda.

UCCB-16-03-02a – Grant Voice Without Vote to the following staff and others making presentation to the Board of Directors: Mr. Wayne Cherry, Ms. Chris Davies, Mr. Lee Foley, Ms. Jan Gomoll, Mr. Richard Hilbrich, Ms. Ann Kiernozeck, Ms. Heather Kimmel, Ms. Alisa Lewis, Ms. Kristina Lizardy-Hajbi, Ms. Linda Long, Ms. Christine Lucarelli, Ms. Denise Malinowski, Mr. Ron Nowak, Ms. Mary Paxton, Ms. Dianne Roberts, Mr. Jim Schnurbusch, Ms. Valerie Smith, Ms. Cameron Trimble, Ms. Christina Villa, Ms. Elizabeth Walker, Ms. Kimberly Whitney, Ms. Cheryl Williams

- UCCB-16-03-02b – approval of the Minutes of the October 15-17, 2015 meeting of the Board of Directors
- UCCB-15-10-02c – receive the Minutes of the October 15, 2015 meeting of the Executive Committee
- UCCB-15-10-02d – receive the Minutes of the January 16, 2016 meeting of the Executive Committee
- UCCB-15-10-02e – approval of the Minutes of the January 26, 2016 meeting of the Board of Directors via conference call
- UCCB-15-10-02f – Grant Voice Without Vote to Non-Director Members of the Special Committee on Development: Ms. Penny Lowes, Mr. Ron Patterson, Ms. Shari Prestemon, Ms. Sue Wimer

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was VOTED:

16-03-UCCB 11 to move into Executive Session

OPEN SESSION

It was VOTED
16-03-UCCB 12 to end Executive Session

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was VOTED:
16-10-UCCB-01 to approve the recommended Agenda.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

It was VOTED:
16-10-UCCB-02 to approve the Consent Agenda.

UCCB-16-10-02a – Grant Voice Without Vote to the following staff and others making presentation to the Board of Directors: Mr. Wayne Cherry, Mr. Lee Foley, Ms. Jan Gomoll, Mr. Richard Hilbrich, Mr. Stephen Jones, Ms. Ann Kiernozek, Ms. Heather Kimmel, Ms. Alisa Lewis, Ms. Linda Long, Ms. Christine Lucarelli, Ms. Holly MillerShank, Mr. Ron Nowak, Ms. Mary Paxton, Ms. Denise Pittman, Ms. Dianne Roberts, Ms. Valerie Smith, Ms. Karen Georgia Thompson, Ms. Christina Villa, Ms. Cheryl Williams, Ms. Kerri Parker, Mr. Franz Rigert

UCCB-16-10-02b – approval of the Minutes of the March 17-19, 2016 meeting of the Board of Directors

UCCB-16-10-02c – receive the Minutes of the March 17, 2016 meeting of the Executive Committee

UCCB-16-10-02d – approval of the Minutes of the May 12, 2016 meeting of the Board of Directors (Conference Call)

UCCB-16-10-02e – Grant Voice Without Vote to Non-Director Members of the Special Committee on Development: Mr. Ron Patterson, Ms. Shari Prestemon, and Ms. Sue Wimer

VOICE WITHOUT VOTE TO MARY NELSON AND ANDREW WARNER

It was VOTED:
16-10-UCCB-03 to approve Mr. Joseph's request to give Ms. Mary Nelson and Mr. Andrew Warner voice without vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was VOTED:
16-10-UCCB-10 to move into Executive Session

OPEN SESSION

It was VOTED:
16-10-UCCB-11 to end Executive Session

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

**It was VOTED:
16-12-UCCB-01**

to approve the recommended Agenda.

NEUTRAL LANGUAGE

**It was VOTED
16-12-UCCB-02**

to use more neutral language in the by-laws.

A motion from was made by the Governance Committee that the United Church of Christ Board of Directors approve the proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws as it directed the Office of General Counsel to prepare at the October 2016 meeting through actions 16-10-UCCB-22 and 16-10-UCCB-28.

END DEBATE

**It was VOTED
16-12-UCCB-03**

to end debate.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

**It was VOTED
16-12 UCCB-04
(three abstentions)**

to approve the proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws as the Board directed the Office of General Counsel to prepare at its October 2016 meeting through actions 16-10-UCCB-22 and 16-10-UCCB-28.

DELETE LANGUAGE

**It was VOTED
16-12 UCCB-05**

to delete the following language: "The United Church of Christ Board of Directors shall assist the Church in all its expressions of injustice and alienation in the church and Society."

ADD PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

**It was VOTED
16-12 UCCB-06**

to add persons with disabilities to the following paragraph. "The search committee shall include the General Minister and President; one Conference Minister named by the Council of Conference Ministers; and one representative of the Council on Racial and Ethnic Ministries to be selected, in the first instance, from the COREM members on the Board of Directors, of which at least one person must self-identify as having a disability, each with voice and vote."

CIRCULATION OF AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

**It was VOTED:
16-12 UCCB-07**

in accordance with paragraphs 74 and 75 of the Constitution, to advise the General Minister and President of proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws and directs the Secretary to submit the amendments in writing to the General Minister and President no later than January 3, 2017. The United Church of Christ Board of Directors further directs the General Minister and President to circulate the proposed amendments as prescribed in paragraphs 74 and 75 no later than April 1, 2017 so that the amendments may be brought before the Thirty-First General synod, June 30 – July 4, 2017.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**It was VOTED:
17-03-UCCB-01**

to approve the Agenda as changed.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

**It was VOTED:
17-03-UCCB-02**

to approve the consent agenda.

UCCB-17-03-02a – Grant Voice Without Vote to the following staff and others making presentation to the Board of Directors: Wayne Cherry, Lee Foley, Jan Gomoll, Richard Hilbrich, Stephen Jones, Ann Kiernozek, Heather Kimmel, Alisa Lewis, Linda Long, Christine Lucarelli, Ron Nowak, Mary Paxton, Denise Pittman, Dianne Roberts, Valerie Smith, Christina Villa, Cheryl Williams

UCCB-17-03-02b – Grant Voice Without Vote to Non-Director Members of the Special Committee on Development: Ron Patterson, Shari Prestemon, Sue Wimer

UCCB-17-03-02c – Approval of the Minutes of the October 20-22, 2016 meeting of the Board of Directors

UCCB-17-03-02d – Approval of the Minutes of the December 7, 2016 meeting of the Board of Directors

APPROVAL OF DISPOSITION OF RESOLUTIONS

**It was VOTED:
17-03-UCCB-03**

to approve the disposition of the resolutions as recommended by the Committee on Disposition.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

**It was VOTED:
17-03-UCCB-04**

to adjourn the meeting to go into Executive Session for discussion.

APPROVE RECOMMENDATION OF TRACI BLACKMON, EXECUTIVE MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND WITNESS MINISTRIES

It was VOTED:
17-03-UCCB-05 to approve the recommendation of Traci Blackmon for the position of Executive Minister of Justice and Witness Ministries.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was VOTED:
17-03-UCCB-06 to adjourn the meeting to go into Executive Session for legal updates.

VOICE WITHOUT VOTE TO KATIE MCCLOSKEY

It was VOTED:
17-03-UCCB-17 to give Katie McCloskey voice without vote.

VOICE WITHOUT VOTE TO STAFF

IT WAS VOTED
17-05-UCCB-01 to grant Voice Without Vote to staff: Lee Foley, Richard Hilbrich, Ann Kiernozek, Heather Kimmel, Peter Makara, Denise Pittman and Dianne Roberts.

FINANCE AND BUDGET

DANIEL HAND FUND

It was VOTED
15-10-EXCOMM-02 to authorize the disbursement of funds, as shown, from the Daniel Hand Fund and the authorization that such funds in future years be disbursed directly by the Daniel Hand Fund Committee without approval by the Board of Directors.

- 2016 amount available for distribution: \$404,379.08
- 2016 distribution to each institution: \$67,396.51

APPROVAL OF THE 2016 BUDGET

It was VOTED:
15-10 UCCB-06 to approve the proposed 2016 budget of \$22,322,281.00.

DANIEL HAND FUND

It was VOTED:
15-10 UCCB-21 that the United Church of Christ Board authorize the disbursement of funds, as shown, from the Daniel Hand Fund and the authorization that

such funds in future years be disbursed directly by the Daniel Hand Fund Committee without approval by the Board of Directors.

ALLOCATION OF \$100,000 TO 90-DAY INITIATIVES

It was VOTED:

16-03-UCCB-06 to allocate \$100,000 of the savings on the Thirtieth General Synod to the Strategic Initiatives Fund to assist in the funding of the General Minister and President's 90-day initiatives.

2017 CONFERENCE TRAVEL POOL

It was VOTED:

16-03-UCCB-07 to approve the the rates by zone to be used in the calculation for the 2017 Conference Travel pool as stated in the budget.

THIRTY-FIRST GENERAL SYNOD BUDGET

It was VOTED:

16-03-UCCB-08 to approve the Thirty-first General Synod Budget of \$1,578,238.

THIRTY-FIRST GENERAL SYNOD REGISTRATION FEES

It was VOTED:

16-03-UCCB-09 to approve the registration fees for the Thirty-first General Synod as stated on the fee schedule.

FUNDING OF EXTRAORDINARY LEGAL EXPENSES

It was VOTED:

16-03-UCCB-10 to fund the Extra-ordinary legal expenses from the Unrestricted Reserves of the Ministries pro rata based on their reserve balance.

CLERGY HOUSING ALLOWANCE

It was VOTED

16-10-UCCB-13 to approve the Clergy Housing Allowance under Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code and the regulations promulgated thereunder ("Section 107") during calendar year 2017 for each ordained minister in good standing with his or her respective denomination and any other "Minister of the gospel" within the meaning of Section 107, who is in the employ of a Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ), shall be a sum equal to such employee's good faith estimate of the amount which will be excludible under Section 107 with respect to the providing of a home by such employee for such year; however, unless and until such employee shall provide in writing the estimate described above, the amount of said Clergy Housing Allowance for such employee shall be a sum equal to one third of such employee's gross salary compensation.

SUPPLEMENTATION OF SMALL ANNUITIES

It was VOTED
16-10-UCCB-14

to authorize the Pension Boards-United Church of Christ to provide supplementation of small annuities, effective January 1, 2017 based on an income level of \$30,192 with three-fourths of that amount as the level applicable in determining supplementation for a deceased member's surviving spouse/partner.

NATIONAL BASIC SUPPORT BASE AND ALLOCATION

It was VOTED
16-10-UCCB-15

to approve the National Basic Support allocation base of \$5.3 million for 2017 and the funding of the Office of the General Minister & President, the Covenanted Ministries and the Pension Boards allocation as follows: OGMP \$3,416,078 (64.47%), JWM \$928,966 (17.53%), LCM \$194,052 (3.66%), WCM \$462,141 (8.72%) and PB \$298,763 (5.64%).

2017 BUDGET

It was VOTED
16-10-UCCB-16

to approve the proposed 2017 budgets totaling \$20,918,851.

The Finance and Budget Committee recommends that the United Church of Christ Board of Directors approve the request of Outdoor Ministries Association (OMA) and send the 1/3 of the Deering Fund income formerly included in the LCM budget under Faith Formation to OMA for their operations and initiatives effective with the 2016 budget.

DEERING FUND

It was VOTED
16-10-UCCB-17

to approve the request of Outdoor Ministries Association (OMA) and send the 1/3 of the Deering Fund income formerly included in the LCM budget under Faith Formation to OMA for their operations and initiatives effective with the 2016 budget.

FRANKLINTON CENTER AT BRICKS PROPOSAL

It was VOTED
16-10-UCCB-18

to close the line of credit for Franklinton Center at Bricks, forgive the unsecured indebtedness and the indebtedness of Franklinton Center at Bricks secured by the deeds of trust held by Justice & Witness Ministries (A Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ) on the Franklinton Center property, to deem said deeds of trust satisfied, and to direct the Office of General Counsel to prepare and file satisfactions of the deeds of trust with the Registers of Deeds in Edgecombe County and Nash County.

REVISED RATES BY ZONE – 2017 CONFERENCE DELEGATE TRAVEL POOL

It was VOTED:

17-03-UCCB-13 to approve the Finance and Budget Committee's recommendations for the 2017 Conference Delegate Travel Pool to General Synod.

REVISED THIRTY-FIRST GENERAL SYNOD BUDGET

It was VOTED:

17-03 UCCB-14 to approve the revised Thirty-first General Synod Budget of \$1,524,238.

GOVERNANCE

ELECTION OF WESLEY HURT TO THE UCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

It was VOTED:

15-09-EXCOMM-01 to elect Mr. Wesley Hurt to the United Church of Christ Board of Directors.

ELECTION OF DAN DE LEON, CHAIR-GENERAL SYNOD NOMINATING COMMITTEE

It was VOTED:

15-10 UCCB-07 to approve the election of Mr. Dan Deleon as Chair of the General Synod Nominating Committee of the United Church of Christ for a term of two years, concluding with the current biennium and his term as a member of the General Synod Nominating Committee.

ELECTION OF KRYSTEN THOMAS, CHAIR-CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

It was VOTED:

15-10 UCCB-08 to approve the election of Krysten Thomas as Chair of the Credentials Committee of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ for a term of two years, concluding with the current biennium and her term as a member of the Credentials Committee.

DISTRIBUTION OF CONFERENCE DELEGATES TO THE THIRTY-FIRST GENERAL SYNOD

It was VOTED:

15-10 UCCB-09 that the United Church of Christ Board of Directors adopt the distribution of Conference Delegates to the Thirty-first General Synod totaling 675.

<u>Conference</u>	<u>Members</u>				<u>Delegates</u>	
California-N/Nevada	014,354	÷	1,397	=	10.27	10
California-S/Nevada	017,101	÷	1,397	=	12.24	12
Calvin Synod	001,721	÷	1,397	=	01.23	03
Central Atlantic	025,671	÷	1,397	=	18.38	18
Central Pacific	006,653	÷	1,397	=	04.76	05
Connecticut	067,510	÷	1,397	=	48.32	48
Florida	021,282	÷	1,397	=	15.23	15
Hawaii	014,766	÷	1,397	=	10.57	11
Illinois	071,385	÷	1,397	=	51.10	51
Illinois-South	020,680	÷	1,397	=	14.80	15
Indiana-Kentucky	025,125	÷	1,397	=	17.98	18
Iowa	029,716	÷	1,397	=	21.27	21
Kansas-Oklahoma	008,394	÷	1,397	=	06.01	06
Maine	017,254	÷	1,397	=	12.35	12
Massachusetts	065,896	÷	1,397	=	47.17	47
Michigan	027,380	÷	1,397	=	19.60	20
Minnesota	027,037	÷	1,397	=	19.35	19
Missouri-Mid-South	029,388	÷	1,397	=	21.04	21
Montana-No. Wyo.	003,925	÷	1,397	=	02.81	03
Nebraska	015,112	÷	1,397	=	10.82	11
New Hampshire	018,692	÷	1,397	=	13.38	13
New York	033,310	÷	1,397	=	23.84	24
Northern Plains	004,736	÷	1,397	=	03.39	03
Ohio	090,654	÷	1,397	=	64.89	65
Pacific Northwest	008,524	÷	1,397	=	06.10	06
Penn Central	037,731	÷	1,397	=	27.01	27
Penn Northeast	035,768	÷	1,397	=	25.60	26
Pennsylvania SE	043,813	÷	1,397	=	31.36	31
Penn West	012,657	÷	1,397	=	09.06	09
Rhode Island	006,157	÷	1,397	=	04.41	04
Rocky Mountain	013,089	÷	1,397	=	09.37	09
South Central	011,865	÷	1,397	=	08.49	09
South Dakota	009,615	÷	1,397	=	06.88	07
Southeast	011,764	÷	1,397	=	08.42	08
Southern	028,867	÷	1,397	=	20.66	21
Southwest	007,152	÷	1,397	=	05.12	05
Vermont	012,440	÷	1,397	=	08.90	09
Wisconsin	046,337	÷	1,397	=	33.17	33

501 (C)(3) GROUP EXEMPTION POLICY IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

It was VOTED:

15-10 UCCB-10 that the United Church of Christ Board of Directors approves receipt of the 501 (C)(3) Group Exemption Policy Implementation Report.

DISSOLUTION OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST MUSICIANS NATIONAL NETWORK, INC.

It was VOTED:

15-10 UCCB-11 that the United Church of Christ Board of Directors approves the dissolution of the United Church of Christ Musicians National Network, Inc. (UCCMNN).

PERSONS ELIGIBLE FOR ELECTION TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE PENSION BOARDS

It was VOTED:

15-10 UCCB-12 that the United Church of Christ Board of Directors declare the following persons eligible for election to the Board of Trustees of the Pension Boards, United Church of Christ, Inc.: Ms. Deborah J. Blood, Mr. Brian Grad, Mr. William C. Huffman, Ms. Elena P. Larssen, Mr. Robert McGee, Mr. Charles E. Mize, and Mr. William P. Worley.

UCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS STANDING RULES

It was VOTED:

15-10 UCCB-13 that the United Church of Christ Board of Directors adopts the proposed amendments to the UCC Board of Directors Standing Rules.

TRACI BLACKMON AFFIRMED AS ACTING EXECUTIVE FOR JWM

It was VOTED:

15-10 UCCB-16 to affirm the selection of the Acting Executive Minister for Justice and Witness Ministries, Ms. Traci Blackmon.

RELEASE OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

It was VOTED:

15-10 UCCB-17 that the United Church of Christ Board of Directors release, as no longer confidential, the minutes of the September 9, 2014 Executive Session of the UCC Board of Directors Meeting that was held via telephone conference call.

ELECTION OF MARK PARTHEMER TO THE UCF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

It was VOTED:

15-10-UCCB -18 that the United Church of Christ approves the election of Mr. Mark Parthemer to the United Church Funds (UCF) Board of Directors, class of 2019.

CALL THE QUESTION AND END DISCUSSION

It was VOTED:
15-10-UCCB -19 to Call the Question and end the discussion.

TIMELINE FOR BYLAW CHANGES

It was VOTED:
15-10 UCCB 20 that the United Church of Christ Board approves the recommendation of the Governance Committee to move forward with the timeline for the Bylaw changes.

ELECTION OF HANNAH SNYDER SAMUELSON TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

It was VOTED:
16-01-EXCOMM-01 to elect Ms. Hannah Snyder-Samuelsen to the United Church of Christ Board of Directors.

MOTION TO AFFIRM THE JWM SEARCH COMMITTEE

IT WAS VOTED:
UCCB-16-01-01 to Affirm the JWM Search Committee as presented to the Board.

RECOMMENDED COURSE OF ACTION FOR CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENTS

It was VOTED
16-03-UCCB 14 to approve the Recommended Course of Action for the Constitution and Bylaw Amendments.

YEARBOOK AND DIRECTORY INCLUSION POLICY

It was VOTED
16-03-UCCB 15 to approve the adoption of the proposed Yearbook and Directory Inclusion Policy.

HISTORICAL COUNCIL BYLAWS

It was VOTED
16-03-UCCB 16 to adopt the proposed amendments to the Historical Council Bylaws.

STANDING RULES OF THE THIRTY-FIRST GENERAL SYNOD

It was VOTED
16-03-UCCB 17 to approve the proposed amendments to the Standing Rules of the Thirty-First General Synod.

CLOSE DEBATE RE: COALITION OF IMMOKALEE WORKERS' BOYCOTT OF WENDY'S

IT WAS VOTED

16-05-UCCB-01 to close debate on the resolution as presented to the Board.

COALITION OF IMMOKALEE WORKERS' BOYCOTT OF WENDY'S

IT WAS VOTED

16-05-UCCB-02 to affirm the Resolution of Witness submitted by the Justice and Witness Ministries to the United Church of Christ Board of Directors, affirming the Coalition of Immokalee Workers' Boycott of Wendy's.

AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTION ON BEHALF OF WIDER CHURCH MINISTRIES A POWER OF ATTORNEY TO DANAIL IGNATOV AND GEORGI ZHIVKOV KHELEV

IT WAS VOTED

16-05-UCCB-03 to authorized the execution on behalf of Wider Church Ministries a Power of Attorney to Danail Ignatove and Georgi Zhivkov Khelev.

SITE SELECTION - THIRTY-SECOND GENERAL SYNOD

It was VOTED:

16-10-UCCB-08 to accept the invitation to go to Milwaukee, Wisconsin for the Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ in 2019.

LOCAL CHURCH MINISTRIES CURRENT REALIGNMENT

It was VOTED:

16-10-UCCB-09 to approve the Executive Committee's recommendation that the United Church of Christ Board of Directors extend the LCM current realignment until the October 2017 meeting of the Board of Directors.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAW AMENDMENTS

It was VOTED

16-10-UCCB-19 to strike number of officers and add structure and a process for calling a special General Synod.

It was VOTED

16-10-UCCB-20 to advance the proposed amendments considered at General Synod in 2015 related to UCC Board structure and a process for calling a special General Synod.

It was VOTED

16-10-UCCB-21 to direct the Office of General Counsel to complete proposed UCC Bylaws amendment language regarding the United Church of Christ and United Church of Canada full communion agreement.

It was VOTED
16-10-UCCB-22

to authorize General Counsel to begin drafting proposed amendments regarding ministerial changes in the Constitution and Bylaws except related to ordination pending call.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE PENSION BOARDS

It was VOTED
16-10-UCCB-23

to make eligible for election to the Board of Trustees of The Pension Boards – United Church of Christ, Inc.: Mr. William MacKay Heckles, Rev. David Jadlocki, Rev. Dr. Carol E. Lytch, Mr. Mark R. Parthemer, Rev. Dr. Bernard R. Wilson, and Ms. Yvette-Michelle Wynn.

GROUP EXEMPTION RESOLUTION REPORT

It was VOTED
16-10-UCCB-24

to receive the Group Exemption Resolution Report.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF GRAND FORKS

It was VOTED
16-10-UCCB-25

to approve the United Church of Christ of Grand Forks remain a member of the Northern Plains Conference, at the request of United Church of Christ of Grand Forks, the Northern Plains Conference, and the Minnesota Conference, that the United Church of Christ Board of Directors.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON MARKETING

It was VOTED
16-10-UCCB-26

to amend the Standing Rules of the United Church of Christ Board of Directors, creating a new Rule 19 establishing a Special Committee on Marketing, and the renumbering of all subsequent rules.

RELEASE OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

It was VOTED
16-10-UCCB-27

to release, as no longer confidential, the Executive Session Minutes from the January 22, 2014, March 6, 2014, March 14, 2014, and July 29, 2014 meetings.

AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS RELATED TO THE ELECTION OF THE GENERAL MINISTER AND PRESIDENT AND ASSOCIATE GENERAL MINISTERS

It was VOTED
16-10-UCCB-28

to direct the Governance Committee to draft amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws reflecting the election of the General Minister and President by General Synod. Associate General Ministers will also be elected by General Synod. The responsibilities of the Associate General Ministers will be affirmed by the Board of Directors.

ELECTIONS TO THE UCC HISTORICAL COUNCIL

It was VOTED:

17-03-UCCB-07

to accept the slate recommended by the Governance Committee to the UCC Historical Council, each for a term of six years, commencing on the date of election and ending at the conclusion of General Synod 2023: David Lewis Beebe, At-Large; Barbara Brown Zikmund, At-Large; Scott Holl, Eden Theological Seminary Archives; and Kara Tucina Olidge, Amistad Research Center.

ELECTIONS TO THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

It was VOTED:

17-03-UCCB-08

to accept the slate recommended by the Governance Committee to the General Synod Credentials Committee, each for a term of two years, commencing on the date of election and ending at the conclusion of General Synod 2019: Jamie Binegar, Ohio Conference; Matt Carriker, Massachusetts Conference; LaVette Laboy, Connecticut Conference; Aaron Roberts, Kansas/Oklahoma Conference; and Kyna Shilling, Pacific Northwest Conference.

ELECTIONS TO THE OFFICE OF COMMUNICATION, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

It was VOTED:

17-03-UCCB-09

to accept the slate recommended by the Governance Committee to the Office of Communication, Inc. Board of Directors, each for a term of three years commencing on the date of election and ending upon the election of a successor at the March 2020 meeting of the UCC Board of Directors: Jim Antal, Sara Fitzgerald, Sandra J. Gadsden, Brian Lapis, and Earl Williams.

AMEND STANDING RULES OF THE THIRTY-FIRST GENERAL SYNOD (RULE 1)

It was VOTED:

17-03-UCCB-10

to accept the Governance Committee's recommendation to amend the Standing Rules (Rule 1) of the Thirty-First General Synod to re-establish the Council for Hispanic Ministries as eligible to form and send a four-person voting delegation to the Thirty-First General Synod.

APPROVAL OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS RELATING TO THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

It was VOTED:

17-03-UCCB-11

to approve the Governance Committee's recommendation to approve the proposed amendments relating to The United Church of Canada Full Communion Agreement.

ADVISE GENERAL MINISTER AND PRESIDENT OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

It was VOTED:

17-03 UCCB-12

to accept the Governance Committees recommendation to advise the General Minister and President of the proposed amendments and direct the Secretary to submit the amendments in writing to the General Minister and President no later than March 13, 2017 and further accept the Committee's direction to circulate the proposed amendments no later than April 1, 2017.

RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION TASK FORCE

It was VOTED:

17-03-UCCB-15

to receive the report of the Implementation Task Force.

ELECTION OF FRANK BOLDEN, CHAIR

It was VOTED:

17-03-UCCB-19

to approve the UCC Board's Nominating Committee recommendation of Frank Bolden as Chair of the Board of Directors.

ELECTION OF ALICE HUNT, VICE-CHAIR

It was VOTED:

17-03-UCCB-20

to approve the UCC Board's Nominating Committee recommendation of Alice Hunt as the Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors.

CONFIRMATION OF AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE THE POWER OF ATTORNEY TO DANAIL IGNATOV AND GEORGI ZHIVKOV KHELEV

IT WAS VOTED

17-05-UCCB-02

that Ann Kiernozek, Controller of Wider Church Ministries, was authorized as of May 12, 2016 to execute the Power of Attorney to Danail Ignatov and Georgi Zhivkov Khelev authorized by the Board on that same day.

DEVELOPMENT

TASK FORCE ON GIVING

It was VOTED:

15-10 UCCB-14

that the United Church of Christ Board receives the preliminary report of the Task Force on Giving and approves its recommendations to continue its work within the timeline as set forth in the report.\

**RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC PLANNING
TASK FORCE**

**It was VOTED:
16-03-UCCB-03**

that the United Church of Christ Board of Directors receive the Report of the Strategic Planning Task Force, “What Does a Transformative UCC Look Like Ten Years from Now?” and consider report’s recommendation as institutional priority towards realizing the Articulated vision.

**AUTHORIZE THE SYSTEMS AND COMMITTEES NECESSARY TO EMPOWER
THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

**It was VOTED:
16-03-UCCB-04**

that the United Church of Christ Board of Directors authorize the systems and committees necessary to empower the recommendations in alignment with the UCC mission and purpose. (hand count: 22 for; 15 against)

END DEBATE ON MOTION AS AMENDED

**It was VOTED:
16-03-UCCB-04**

The United Church of Christ Board of Directors voted to end debate on the Motion as amended.

MOTION FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**It was VOTED:
16-03-UCCB-05**

The United Church of Christ Board of Directors voted to approve an Amendment to the Motion from the Executive Committee recommending that the Board of Directors appoint Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer as the Acting Executive Minister of Local Church Ministries, until the October, 2016 meeting of the United Church of Christ Board of Directors and that the Board evaluate the effectiveness of the arrangement at that time.

PROPOSAL AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GIVING TASK FORCE

**It was VOTED:
16-10-UCCB-04**

to approve the Development Committee’s recommendation that the United Church of Christ Board of Directors receive the report of the Giving Task Force and advance a resolution for consideration at the Thirty-first General Synod that would implement the proposal and recommendations of the Giving Task Force as set forth in the report.

INVESTMENT AND ENDOWMENT

BEYOND FOSSIL FUELS BALANCE FUND

**It was VOTED:
15-10 UCCB-15**

that the United Church of Christ Board gives approval to use the equity investments of Wider Church and Justice and Witness Ministries unrestricted account in the Beyond Fossil Fuels Balanced Fund.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST BOARD OF DIRECTORS STATEMENT OF INVESTMENT POLICY

**It was VOTED
16-03-UCCB 13**

to approve the United Church of Christ Board of Directors Statement of Investment Policy dated February 2016.

SHAPING OUR FUTURE ENDOWMENT FUND

**It was VOTED:
16-10-UCCB-05**

to approve the Investment and Endowment Committee's recommendation that the United Church of Christ Board of Directors approve the creation of the Shaping our Future Endowment Fund that will hold endowment dollars raised in connection with the Shaping Our Future Campaign.

APPROVAL OF 4.75% TOTAL RETURN DRAW RATE FOR 2018 BUDGET

**It was VOTED:
16-10-UCCB-06**

to approve the Investment and Endowment Committee's recommendation that the United Church of Christ Board of Directors approve use of a 4.75% total return draw rate for the 2018 budget and ask staff to perform a study of asset allocation and expected performance and report back at the March 2017 meeting.

DISBURSEMENT REQUESTS FROM THE HAITI LIMITED TERM ENDOWMENT

**It was VOTED:
17-03-UCCB-16**

to approve the Investment and Endowment Committee's recommendation for disbursement requests from the Haiti Limited Term Endowment.

EXCLUSIONARY SCREENING

**It was VOTED:
17-03-UCCB-18**

to approve the Investment and Endowment Committee's recommendations for the proposed changes regarding exclusionary screening, contingent on the United Church Funds approving the same changes to the UCF Statement of Investment Policy.

AUDIT

RECEIVE COMBINED FINANCIAL REPORT

**It was VOTED:
16-10-UCCB-07**

to approve the Audit Committee's recommendation that the United Church of Christ Board of Directors receive the Combined Financial Report of The United Church of Christ Board and Certain Affiliated Entities dated December 31, 2015.

OTHER

AUTHORIZATION TO SIGN MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

**It was VOTED
15-09-EXCOMM-02**

to authorize Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer to sign the Memo of Understanding with the Boy Scouts of America.

PURPOSE, VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT

**It was VOTED
16-10-UCCB-12**

to adopt the Purpose, Vision and Mission statement as presented by Mr. Dorhauer during the First Business Session

APPENDIX D

FIRST REPORT OF THE GENERAL SYNOD NOMINATING COMMITTEE

By unanimous vote, the Thirtieth-first General Synod Nominating Committee has selected the following 12 members of the United Church of Christ for nomination as members at-large and is placing their names for election before the Thirtieth-first General Synod, meeting June 30-July 4, 2017 in Baltimore, Maryland for election to the United Church of Christ Board of Directors.

These outstanding individuals will join the other 24 members at large and the 16 ex officio members now serving.

Each person that came before the Nominating Committee was carefully and individually considered and references for each candidate were checked. The Committee was blessed with a deep and rich pool of nominees of superior ability, attributes, skills and experience. With the election of these highly-qualified members of the United Church of Christ we succeed in exceeding the diversity requirement for the Board of Directors, as outlined in the Bylaws.

The members of the Committee give thanks to God for the quality and dedication of the members of the Church it had to choose from and it is with high esteem that we present these outstanding individuals for election to the United Church of Christ Board of Directors.

Rev. Dan De Leon
Chair-The Thirtieth-first General Synod Nominating Committee
February 21, 2017

For Election to the United Church of Christ Board of Directors

Cameron Barr is a European American male holding Ministerial Authorization, 19-29, who is the Pastor of Grinnell United Church of Christ in Grinnell, Iowa, Iowa Conference. He previously served as associate pastor at Plymouth UCC in Des Moines, Iowa prior to being called to Grinnell in 2014. Mr. Barr's ministry in Grinnell has focused on strategic planning and stewardship. The church witnessed a 47 percent growth in pledge income during his first two years as pastor. He served as a Conference delegate from Iowa to the 2013 and 2015 General Synods. He holds a Masters of Divinity from Vanderbilt Divinity School. He was nominated by the Iowa Conference. Mr. Barr will serve in the Class of 2023.

Emma Brewer-Wallin is a European American lay female, 19-29, who is a student at Wellesley College in Massachusetts and a member of First Congregational United Church of Christ in Salem, Oregon, Central Pacific Conference. She served as a Climate Justice Intern for the Massachusetts Conference and as a Spiritual Life Coordinator for the Sierra Service Project, an organization leading youth through week-long service opportunities and spiritual reflection. She was a youth representative to the Senior Pastor Search Committee on her local church. Ms. Brewer-Wallin is a member of the Wellesley varsity fencing team and a member of the college's Multifaith Council. She self-nominated and will serve in the Class of 2023.

Dorinda Broadnax is an African American female holding Ministerial Authorization, 60+, who is the Associate Pastor of Community Congregation United Church of Christ in Montgomery, Alabama, Southeast Conference. Ms. Broadnax also works as the office administrator of a law firm. She has served as Interim Pastor at various UCC churches in the Montgomery area and also at a Disciples of Christ church. Ms. Broadnax served on the UCC Executive Council, under the former governance structure. She has served on her Association Board of Directors and on the Southeast Conference Board of Directors, as its Secretary. She holds a Bachelor's of Science Degree. She was nominated the Southeast Conference. Ms. Broadnax will serve in the Class of 2023.

Michael Cich-Jones is a Filipino American lay male, 30-39, who is a member of First Central Congregational United Church of Christ in Omaha, Nebraska, Nebraska Conference. He is the Director of Development and Marketing for the Urban League of Nebraska and also owns his own development consulting company. Mr. Cich-Jones served on the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries Board of Directors, under the former governance structure, on its Fund Raising Committee. He is involved in the merger of the Nebraska, Iowa and South Dakota Conferences in to one Conference, serving as a member of the Conference Minister Search Committee. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Advertising and Marketing. He was nominated by the Nebraska Conference. Mr. Cich-Jones will serve in the Class of 2023.

John Folk is a European American male holding Ministerial Authorization, 40-49, who is Associate Pastor of St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Fleetwood, Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Southeast Conference. Prior to entering the ministry Mr. Folk was a Project Manager for XO Communications. As the Associate Pastor at St. Paul's he leads the church's youth ministry and facilitates the young adult ministry, working to keep college-aged members of the church engaged. He currently or has served on the Conference Youth Steering Committee, the Youth Event Planning Committee and Budget and Finance Committee and the Conference Minister Search Committee. He has twice served as a delegate to General Synod. He was nominated by the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference. Mr. Folk will serve in the Class of 2023.

Darrell Goodwin is an African American male holding Ministerial Authorization, 30-39, who is the Pastor of Liberation United Church of Christ in Seattle, Washington, Pacific Northwest Conference. Mr. Goodwin is also the Dean of Students at Seattle University. He currently serves on the United Church of Christ Board of Directors, filling a two-year vacancy in 2015 and is now eligible to be elected to a full term. Prior to his position at Seattle University he served as the Assistant Director of Student Life at Creighton University in Pennsylvania. He has served on his Conference Nominating Committee and on the Global Ministries Board of Directors, a shared ministry with the Christian Church (DOC). He self-nominated. Mr. Goodwin will serve in the Class of 2023.

Kevin Graham is a European American/Native American lay male, 40-49, who is a member of Friends Congregational United Church of Christ in College Station, Texas, South Central Conference. He is the Director of Healthcare Quality, Clinical Education and Regulatory Affairs

for Davita Healthcare Partners and holds a Master's Degree in BioMedical Sciences. He has supervisory and management responsibilities for multiple facilities and over 1,000 employees across the country. He has served as his Church Moderator, Chair of the church Fellowship Committee and is a mentor for LGBT students at Texas A&M University. He self-nominated. Mr. Graham will serve in the Class of 2023.

Nadyne Guzman is a Hispanic lay female, 60+, who is a member of Washington Park United Church of Christ in Denver, Colorado, Rocky Mountain Conference. She is the Professor Emerita-Leadership, Research and Foundations at the College of Education, the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, Colorado. She was a Spiritual Care Fellow-JFK Partners, Department of Pediatrics and Psychiatry at the University of Colorado School of Medicine in Aurora, Colorado. She began her career in education as a classroom teacher. In addition to a PhD Ms. Guzman holds a Master's of Divinity. She is active in the United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries and in her local church. She was nominated by the United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministry. Ms. Guzman will serve in the Class of 2023.

Timothy Hachfeld is a European American lay male, 30-39, who is a member of Eagle Harbor Congregational United Church of Christ in Bainbridge Island, Washington, Pacific Northwest Conference. With a degree in electrical engineering, Mr. Hachfeld is now pursuing a graduate degree. He served eight years in the United States Navy as a submarine officer, resigning from the Office of General Ministries Board of Directors, under the former governance structure, in 2009 to begin his service. Prior to his military service Mr. Hachfeld was member of the Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries and twice a Minnesota Conference delegate to the General Synod. He is a member of the Olympic Mountain Volunteer Rescue Team. He was nominated by a fellow member of the United Church of Christ. Mr. Hachfeld will serve in the Class of 2023.

Isaiah Jackson-Post is an African American lay male, 19-29, who is a member of Immanuel United Church of Christ in Ferguson, Missouri, Missouri Mid-South Conference. He is currently employed as an After-School Program Assistant by the UCC Neighborhood Houses and formerly was the News Director of his college radio station. He is active in his local church, serving as a Sunday School Teacher and usher at Immanuel UCC. He also serves on the church's Sacred Conversations on Race Committee. Mr. Jackson-Post is a member of the UCC Criminal Justice Network and he serves on the St. Louis Association Council. He self-nominated. Mr. Jackson-Post will serve in the Class of 2023.

Brittini Melius is a Native American lay female, 19-29, who is a member of First Congregational United Church of Christ in Pierre, South Dakota, South Dakota Conference, although she now lives in Littleton, Colorado where she is a public school teacher. Ms. Melius was a 2011-2012 Fulbright Scholar studying in Valencia, Spain. She currently serves on the United Church of Christ Board of Directors, filling a vacancy and is now eligible to be elected to a full term. She previously served as a General Synod delegate in 2013, serving as Chair of a Synod Committee which recommended on the final language of a resolution. She was involved in youth ministry at her local church while in high school and college. She self-nominated. Ms. Melius will serve in the Class of 2023.

Kylie Steever is a European American lay female, 19-29, who is a member of South Park United Church of Christ in Rapid City, South Dakota, South Dakota Conference. She is a Student-Teacher in K-12 Special Education after receiving her degree in May of 2016. She has served on her local church council and attended General Synods in 2013 and 2015 as a Conference Delegate. She serves as her church's volunteer Christian Education Director, teaches Sunday School and led a Vacation Bible School. Ms. Steever serves as a science fair judge for her local school district and volunteers for the Teammates Program, a program much like Big Sisters. She was nominated by the South Dakota Conference. Ms. Steever will serve in the Class of 2023.

DEMOGRAPHIC MAKE-UP OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST BOARD
OF DIRECTORS FOR THE 2017-2019 BIENNIUM

Male	18
Female	18
Clergy	12
Lay Male	12
Lay Female	12
African American	6
Hispanic	3
Native American	2
Pacific Islander	3
Asian American	4
Total:	18
European American	18
60+	6
50-59	3
40-49	2
30-39	3
19-29	4
Youth (18 or Under)	0
Disability (self-identified)	2
LGBT (self-identified)	10

APPENDIX E

SECOND REPORT OF THE GENERAL SYNOD NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The General Synod Nominating Committee has completed its work in regard to the selection of candidates for election by delegates in Baltimore to the high positions of Moderator and Assistant Moderator of the Thirty-second General Synod to be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 2019. When elected, the nominees will serve in their respective positions for the next two years, their Ex-officio membership on the United Church of Christ Board of Directors among their responsibilities. The Moderator will Chair the Board's General Synod Programming and Planning Committee which advises the Synod Administration on the design of Synod.

By unanimous vote the Committee is recommending the elevation of the current Assistant Moderator, Mr. Norman Williams, for election as Moderator. Mr. Williams has served with distinction and grace for the past two years as Assistant Moderator and will serve ably as Moderator. Mr. Williams is an African American lay male and is a member of the Church of the Good Sheppard Congregational Church in Chicago. He is a banker and a principal in a family-owned chain of funeral homes. Mr. Williams currently serves as the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Chicago Theological Seminary. Mr. Williams brings extensive financial and management expertise to the position of Moderator.

The Committee has selected and nominates for election by delegates to the Thirty-first General Synod the Rev. Penny Lowes of Rochester, Michigan as Assistant Moderator of the Thirty-second General Synod. Rev. Lowes is a European American female holding Ordained Ministerial Standing. She has recently retired from parish ministry. She is a member of St. Paul United Church of Christ in Warren, Michigan. Rev. Lowes is uniquely qualified for the position of Assistant Moderator with an extensive history of service to the National Setting of the United Church Christ. She is a former Chair of the Executive Council, serving as the last Chair of that body prior to the enactment of the new governance structure in 2013.

The Committee wishes to thank each candidate it considered for the two positions. We were blessed with a wonderful field of highly qualified and gifted members of the United Church of Christ who offered their service, and it is with thanks to God for the opportunity we now have to recommend for election as Moderator and Assistant Moderator Mr. Williams and Rev. Lowes, respectively.

In Christ,

Rev. Dan De Leon
Chair, The Thirty-first General Synod Nominating Committee

April 25, 2017

**United Church of Christ
Supplemental Financial Information
General Synod
June 2017**

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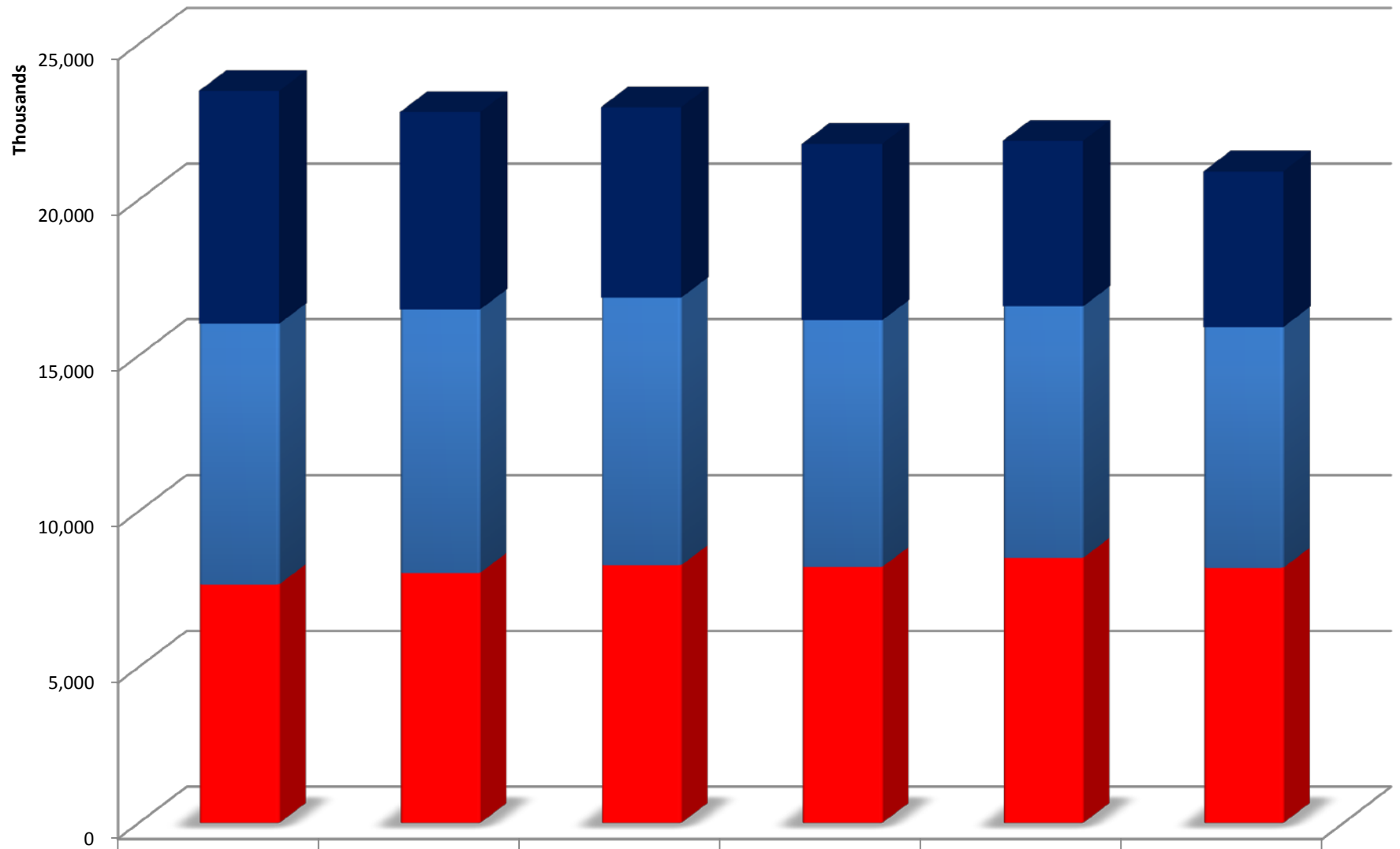
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United Church of Christ Chief Financial Officer Supplemental Information General Synod 2017

Enclosed are a series of graphs with supplemental information about the operations of the combined ministries of the United Church of Christ. The graphs were designed to highlight trends of key financial data like operating revenues & expenses, endowment draw rates, and offerings. Here are my thoughts on the graphs and financial issues.

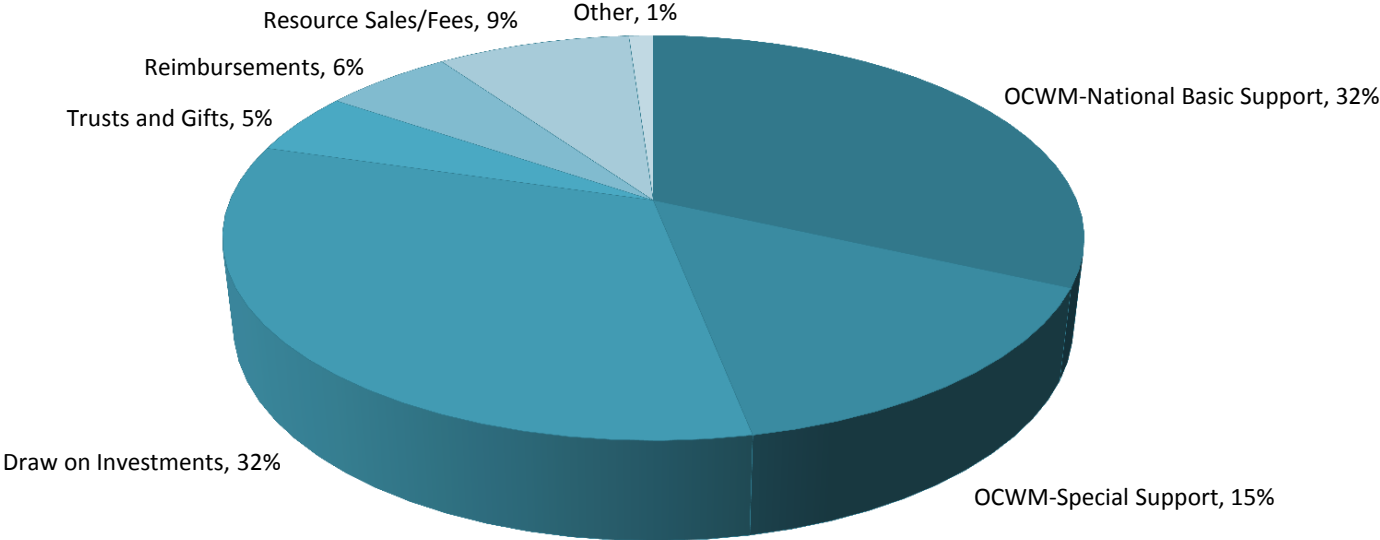
- ✓ Operating revenue has shown a consistent decline over the last five years. One component of our revenue, Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) has declined 29% during that same time period. The 2017 budget is projecting another decline of approximately 6% in OCWM revenue.
- ✓ Employees at the National Setting worked hard managing operating expenses during this decline in revenue. The last two years, significant savings in expenses more than offset a shortfall in budgeted revenue. Operating Expenses declined by approximately \$1.75 million between 2014 and 2016.
- ✓ Managing the asset allocation and returns of our endowment remains a high priority. This is crucial to help fund the operations of the United Church of Christ and offset the decline in revenue from other sources.
- ✓ The Combined Annual Draw Rate for the National Setting has been declining, from 5.8% in 2012 to 4.4% in 2016.
- ✓ We must continue to upgrade and use technology to streamline our internal operations and processes. Newer technology like Concur (used for Travel & Business Expenses) can replace manual processes and provide us with timely data to help make informed decisions with our expenses.
- ✓ Continue to implement Best Practices throughout our operations.

United Church of Christ Revenues 2012-2017

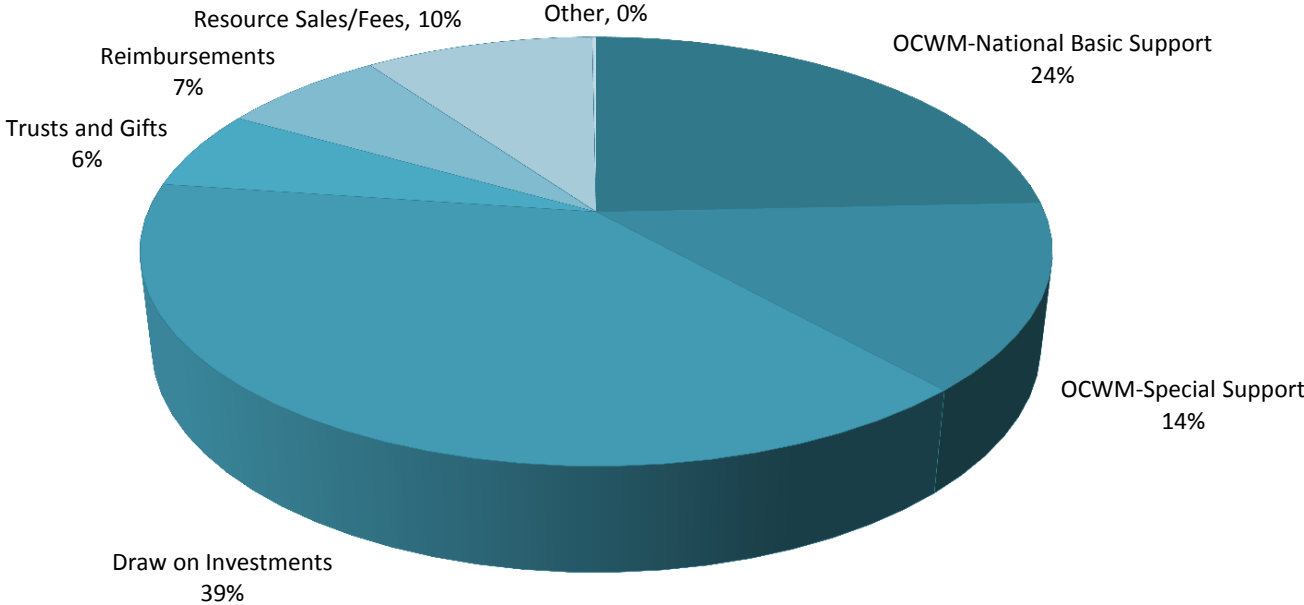


	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017 (B)
OCWM Nat Basic Support	7,473,387	6,336,567	6,116,244	5,664,864	5,317,635	5,001,236
Operating Revenue	8,366,818	8,455,857	8,591,351	7,921,333	8,074,897	7,729,436
Endowment Draw	7,659,276	8,028,094	8,269,685	8,212,100	8,506,368	8,188,178

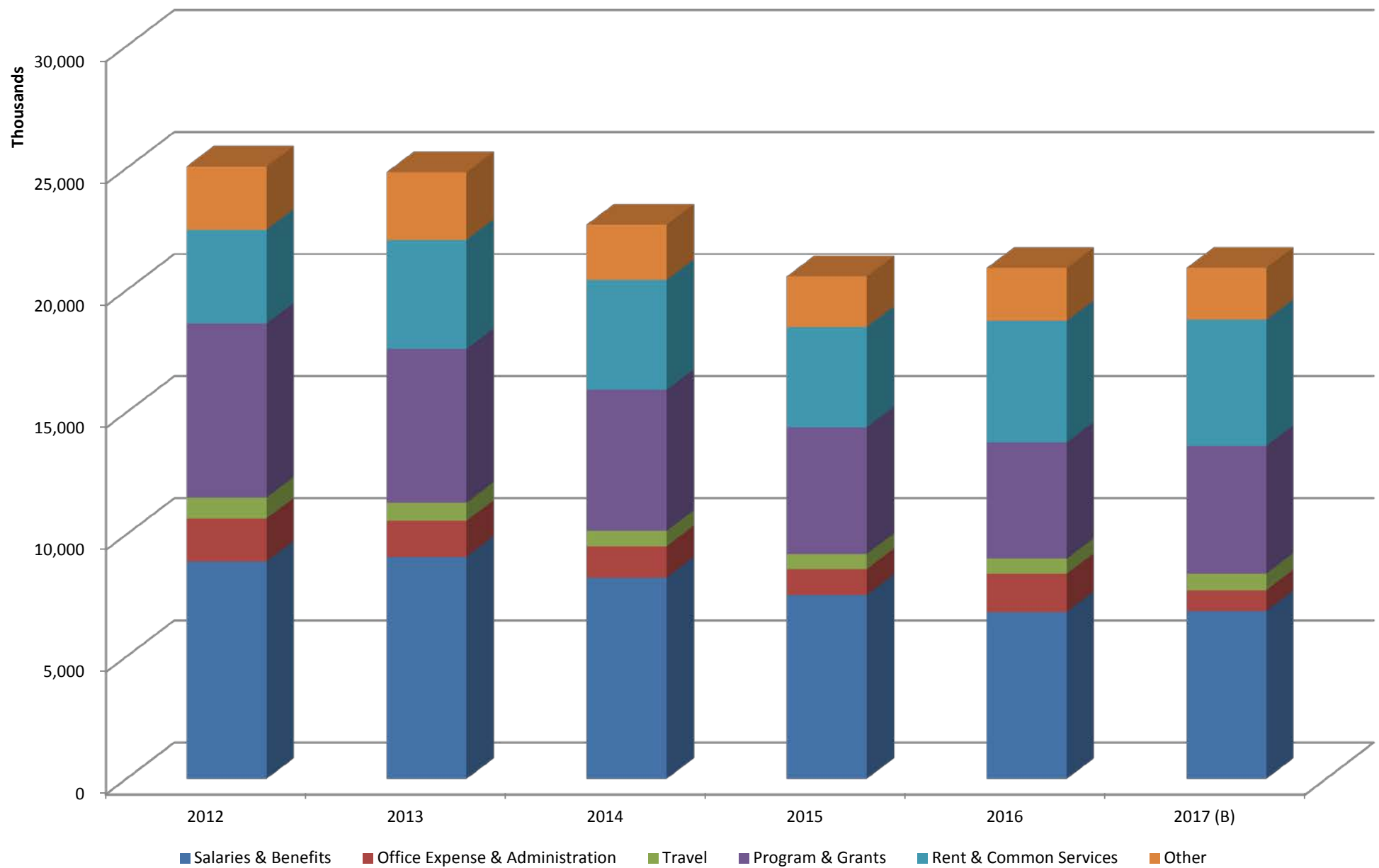
Operating Revenues 2012



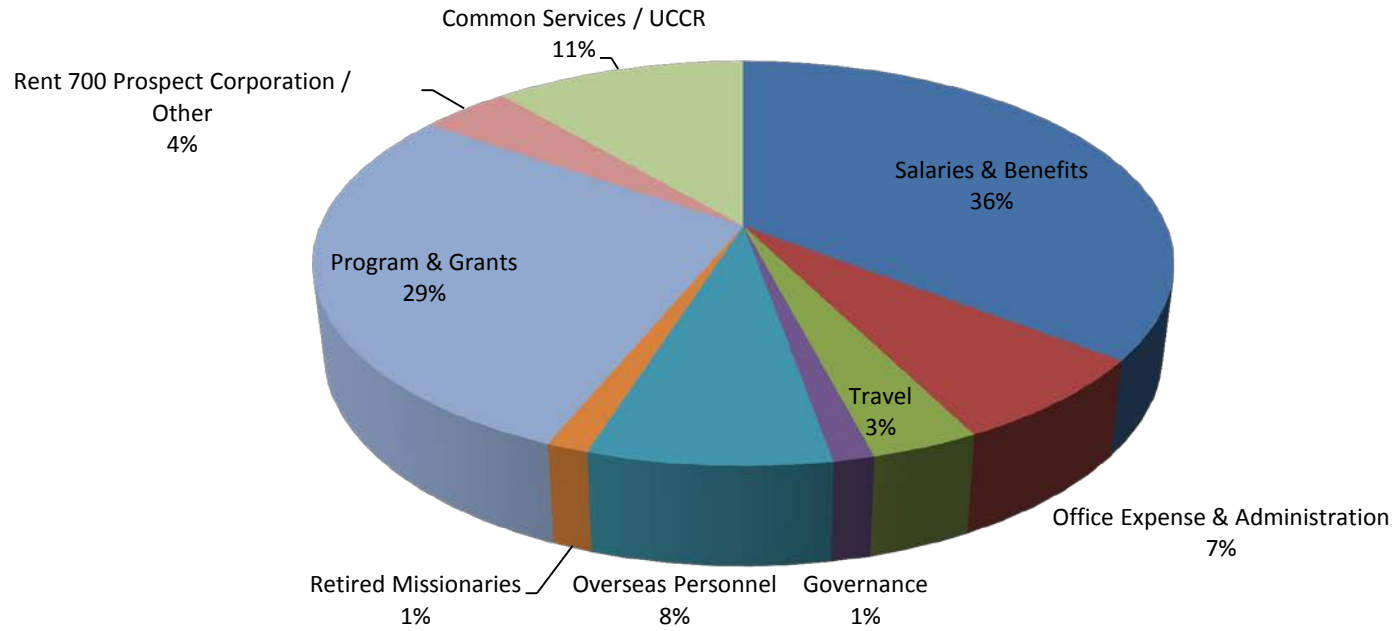
Operating Revenues 2016



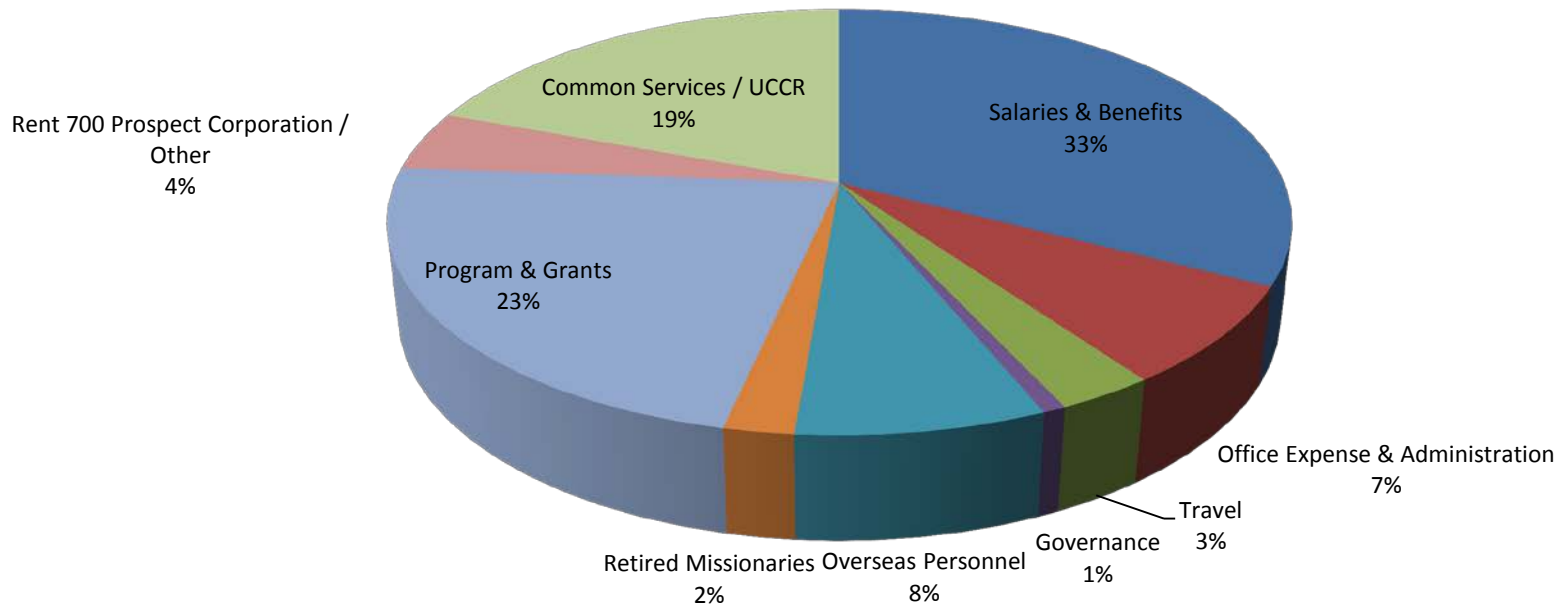
United Church of Christ Operating Expenses 2012-2017



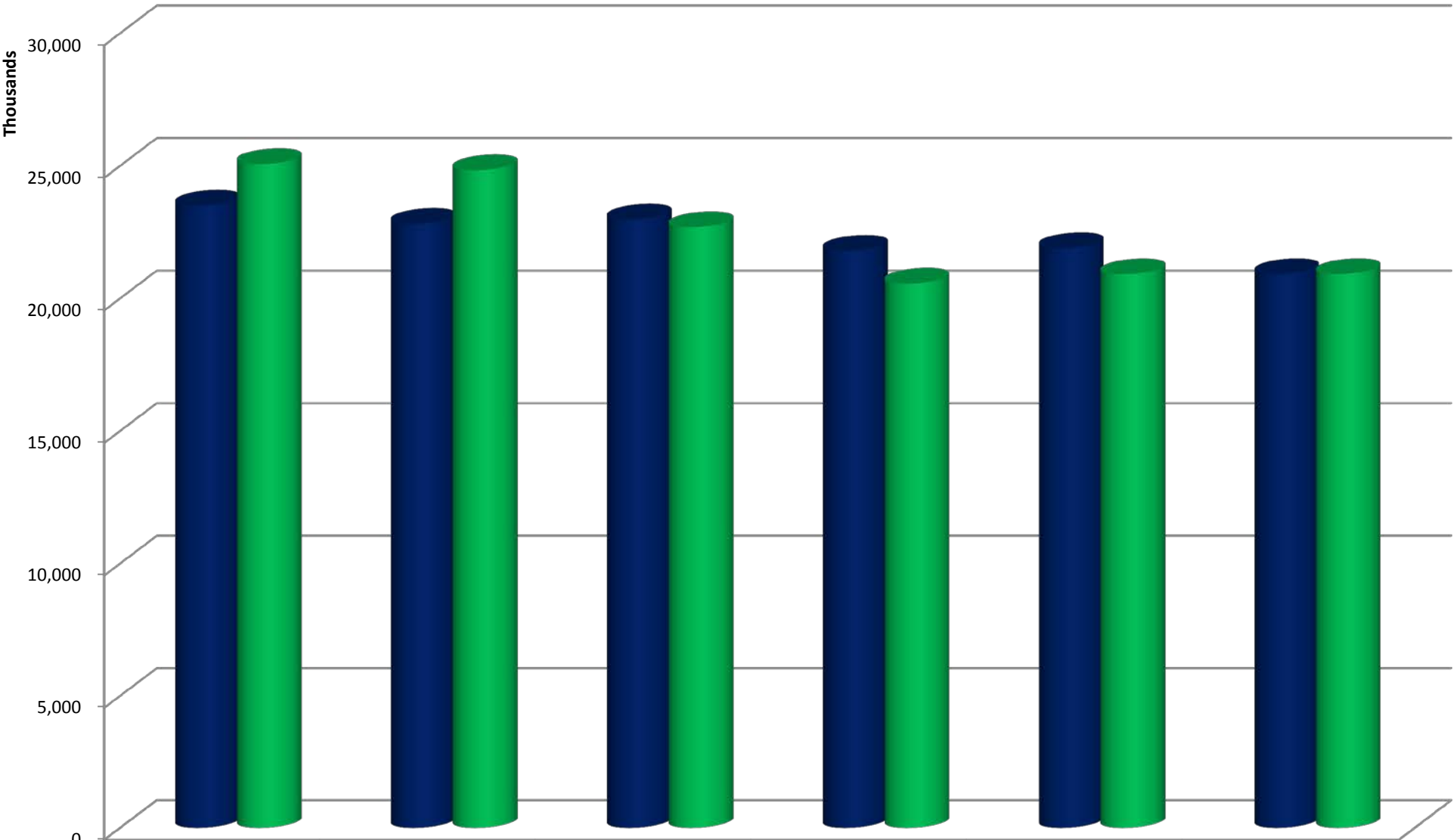
Operating Expenses 2012



Operating Expenses 2016

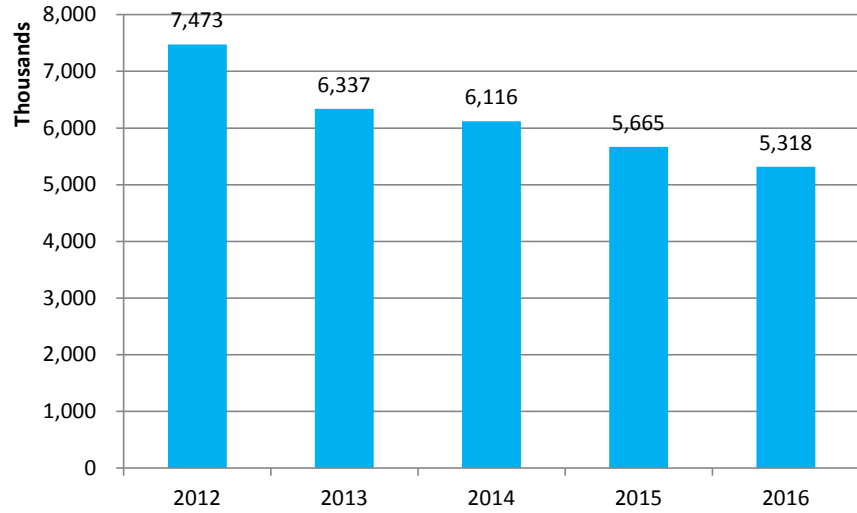


United Church of Christ Total Revenues vs. Total Expenses

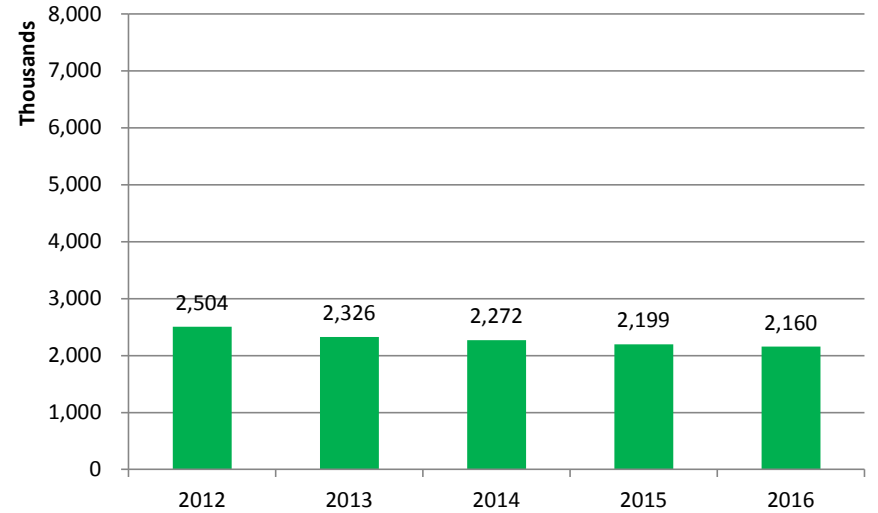


	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017 (B)
Revenues	23,499,481	22,820,518	22,977,280	21,798,297	21,898,900	20,918,850
Expenses	25,069,573	24,836,037	22,686,867	20,564,301	20,913,742	20,918,850

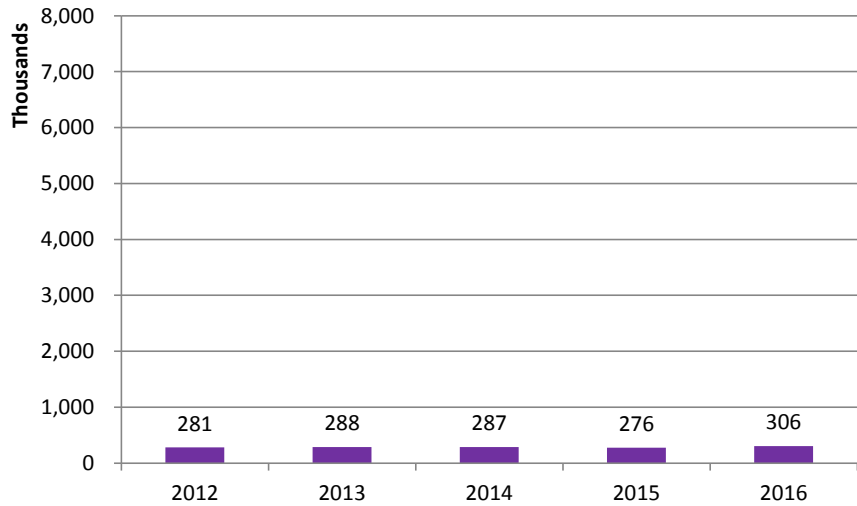
OCWM Basic Support



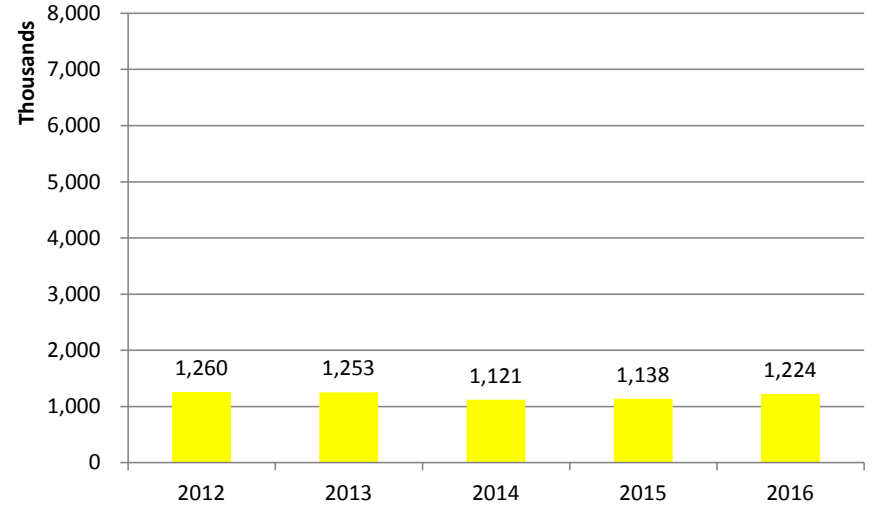
One Great Hour of Sharing



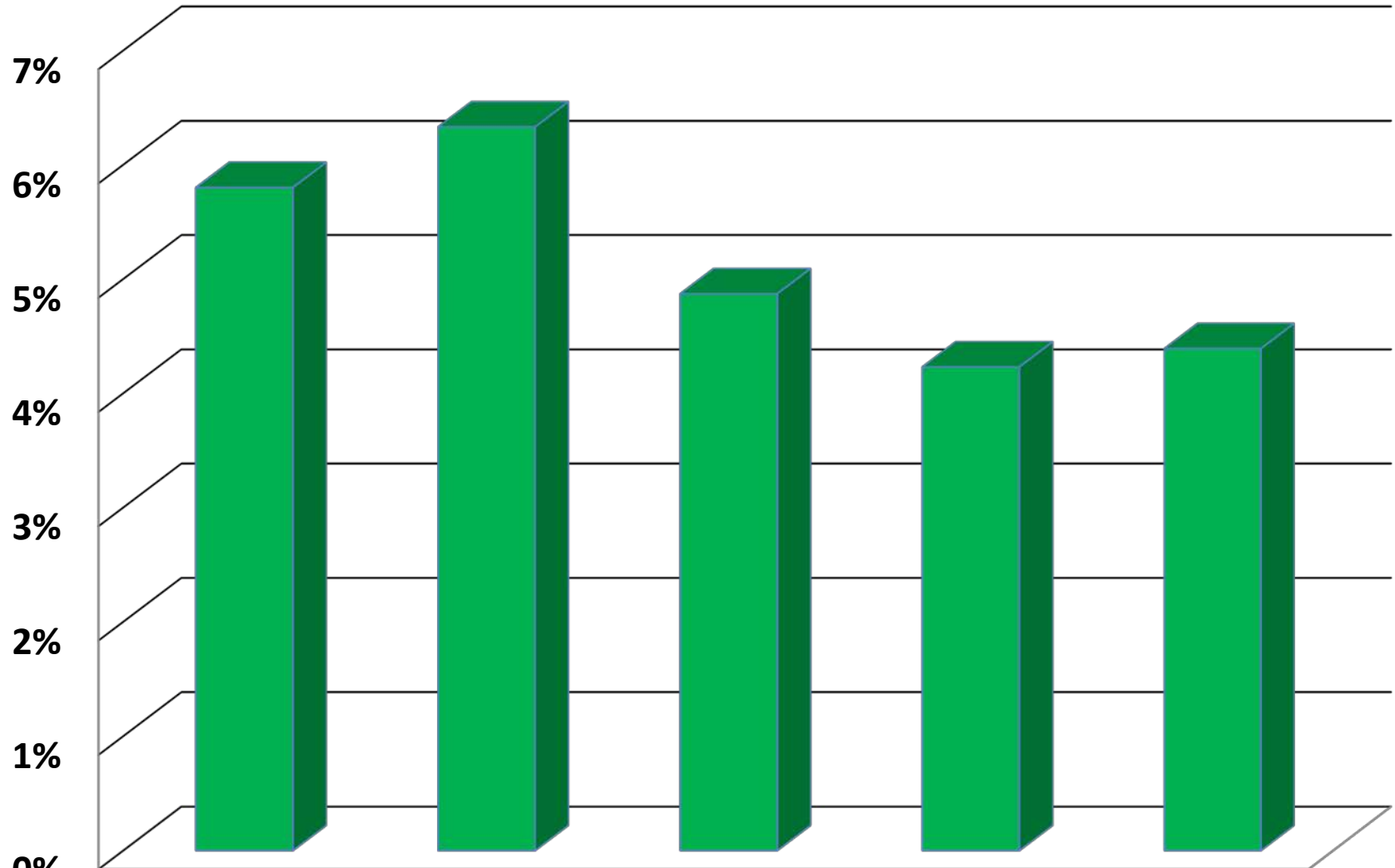
Strengthen the Church



Neighbors In Need

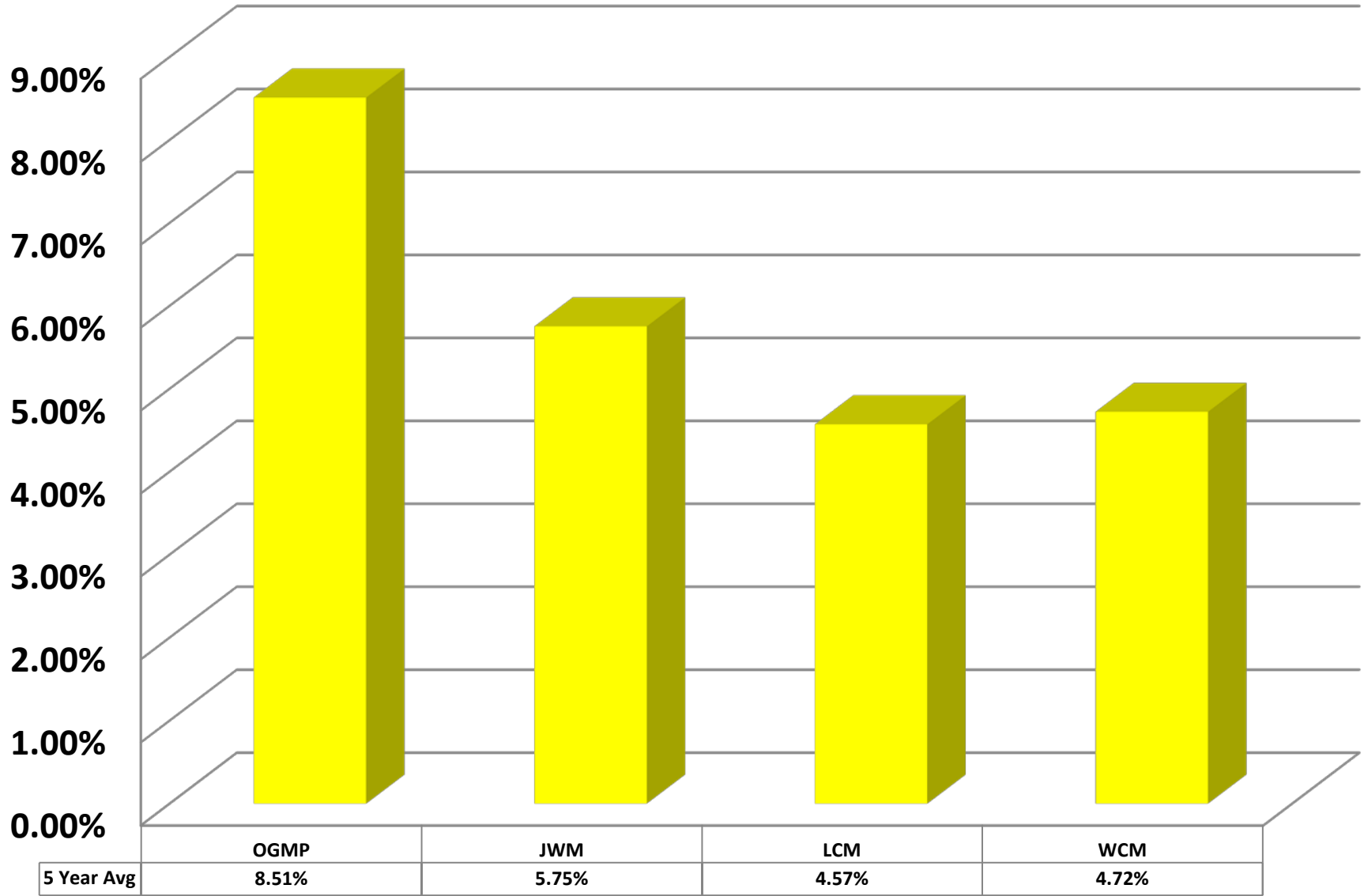


**United Church of Christ
Combined Annual Average Draw Rate
2012 - 2016**



	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Draw Rate	5.80%	6.33%	4.87%	4.23%	4.39%

**United Church of Christ
5 Year Average Draw Rate by Ministry
2012 - 2016**



United Church of Christ Revenue Sources - 2017 Budget

